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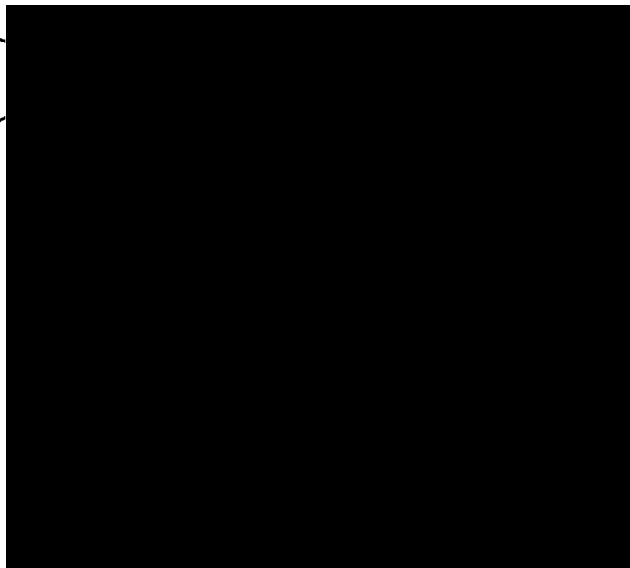
A HISTORY OF THE HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

by

Patt Foster Roberson

A Dissertation
Submitted to the Graduate School
of the University of Southern Mississippi
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Approved:



Dean of the Graduate School

August 1985

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1985

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

A study of history provides a foundation upon which to build the future. A vicarious glimpse at the people and events from one's heritage might give a sense of purpose and direction, thus shaping the tomorrows by granting insight into the yesterdays.

According to William H. Taft, "Both history and journalism are concerned with the record of men, of events, of their conflicts, achievements, and contributions."¹ Day after day, year in and year out, editors, reporters, columnists, cartoonists record--and create--our historical agenda in newspapers. By the nineteenth century, the newspaper had developed into what orator Wendell Phillips called "parent, school, college, pulpit, theatre, example, counselor [sic], all in one."² Historian Allan Nevins has written, "Sound historical works on the press and its leaders are as important to the United States as sound works on presidents and cabinet officers, generals and admirals, inventors and industrialists."³ His rationale, no doubt, stems from perceiving journalism

in its theoretically apparent role of social responsibility, as the prime tool in a self-governing democracy, serving, informing, enlightening, safeguarding, entertaining. Further, he believes, "What is needed is a sense that the newspaper is history beyond the day."⁴

Perhaps over the years newspapers have grown to be taken too much for granted to be taken seriously. Still, Lucy Maynard Salmon expresses hope that her analysis of the periodical press "may indicate that the actual value of the newspaper is far beyond all that could have been anticipated when the presses close, the papers have passed into the hands of their readers, and have then been cast aside as having served their purpose."⁵

This study is intended to make a contribution to the larger domain of Journalism historical scholarship. Several justifications exist for focusing attention on the newspapers of Hattiesburg. First, American Journalism historians tend to suffer from what Joseph P. McKerns calls the "Big Apple Syndrome," viewing "New York-style journalism as a bellwether."⁶

Earlier still, Professor Daniel J. Boorstin noted, "Histories of Journalism tend to focus on the big-city newspapers, especially those of the eastern seaboard: they have the longest histories, have played the most continuous role in national politics, and often have

well-kept archives."⁷ But across America newspapers abound that do not fit the metropolitan description.

A second justification, the newspapers of Hattiesburg, their style and development, may be considered as typical of American journalism. For, as Charlene J. Brown, Trevor R. Brown and William L. Rivers point out:

The United States has no national newspapers. . . . Huge newspapers with an impact beyond their cities of publication form a tiny minority of American daily newspapers; only half a percent of all dailies have more than 500,000 circulation. Seventy percent of U.S. dailies have circulations of 25,000 or less; 53 percent are published in cities with populations less than 25,000.⁸

The Hattiesburg American today falls into that 70 percent, having a circulation of 25,000 within a 40-mile radius of the city. Consequently, this study of the newspapers of Hattiesburg with an emphasis on the Hattiesburg American will contribute to American Journalism historiography as a partial remedy for the disproportionate emphasis that has been placed on large metropolitan newspapers which are, in fact, atypical.

Finally, a third justification, the writing of local history seems completely practical. According to historian Thomas E. Felt, "Every locality is surrounded by a state, a region, a nation, and a culture that extends beyond national borders. The connections between the locality and its larger context are nothing new; they go back to the founding of every community and

institution."⁹ This concept seems to indicate, then, that even a comparatively small town like Hattiesburg is not an island, and therefore it, too, provides ample justification for a study of newspaper history.

Statement of the Problem

Hattiesburg was founded in 1880 by Captain William Harris Hardy (1837-1917), a lawyer, railroad builder and Confederate veteran. It was incorporated as a town in 1884 and named for his wife, Hattie Lott Hardy.

The newspapers of Hattiesburg have existed for 100 years. They have survived flood and fire, boom times and depression, segregation and integration, war and peace. In 1817 Mississippi became the 20th state to be admitted into the Union. The capital was moved from Natchez to Jackson in 1822. The early newspapers of Hattiesburg served a limited geographical area and worked to overcome the hardships of paper and ink shortages, delinquent advertisers and subscribers. While other papers have come and gone, the Hattiesburg American has emerged today as the only local daily newspaper. Its daily circulation is 26,136 and 28,190 on Sunday, with a target market of 51,821 in Forrest and Lamar counties.¹⁰

Purchased in 1982 by the Gannett Group with headquarters in Rochester, New York, from the Hederman family of Jackson in a package including two other dailies and six weeklies, the Hattiesburg American has

undergone several facelifts in an effort to adapt to the policies of the group. "Group," incidentally, is the term Frank E. Gannett preferred to avoid any connotation of the evils of chain ownership.

In his presidential address to the American Historical Association in 1933, historian Charles Beard said, "Every written history--of a village, town, county, state, nation, race, group, class, idea, or the wide world--is a selection and arrangement of facts, of recorded fragments of past actuality."¹¹

The newspapers of Hattiesburg have "recorded fragments of past actuality" and have grown with the town for the past one hundred years. In addition, the newspapers, each in its own time, have developed as ongoing business enterprises, able to stay in business by making a profit.

Furthermore, no comprehensive history of the newspapers of Hattiesburg has ever been compiled. This contribution may serve as a model to encourage others to further the interests of journalism in Mississippi and elsewhere and to remind publishers of their responsibility, as aptly pointed out by Nevins, to maintain business archives, office journals and newspaper morgues. Regretfully, as of yet, microfilm copies, which are often all that remain of the traditional newspaper morgue, leave much to be desired in the study of newspapers because of poor reproduction capability and incomplete holdings and because they do not reproduce

color, the use of which is a growing trend among newspapers today.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to trace the history of the newspapers of Hattiesburg from the earliest known newspaper (the Hattiesburg Herald, which was ordered by the board of mayor and aldermen to publish the town ordinances in 1885) up to and a few years beyond the 1 June 1982 acquisition of the Hattiesburg American by the Gannett Group. Because of its longevity and current status as the only newspaper serving Hattiesburg, emphasis is placed on the Hattiesburg American which began publication in 1897 as the Hattiesburg News and was renamed on 1 October 1917. This is a general study of the editorial policies, business procedures and mechanical phases of newspaper operations, newspaper policymakers and their contributions to the city, to the state and to journalism in general. Gannett has introduced new and/or different business management procedures, innovations and additions into the operation of the Hattiesburg American. Access to these data was sought from the president-publisher and the managing editor. Further cooperation was extended in the form of a feature article published 19 November 1984 concerning the subject matter of this dissertation and the author's search for turn-of-the-century Hattiesburg newspapers. This publicity, along with similar articles in area newspapers, has been helpful in generating a response

from readers who have old newspapers that they are willing to share with the author, thus supplementing available library holdings. Appendix A lists the newspapers of Hattiesburg that are part of this study.

In other words, this study presents a history of the newspapers of Hattiesburg, their news, editorials and advertising, as well as the role of the newspapers and their staffs. Of particular interest in this regard is the contribution of the only female editor and proprietor discovered--Mary Oliphant of the Hattiesburg Democrat (from an extant copy of her 4 January 1894 issue)--and of the black newspapers, namely the Hattiesburg Herald (1904), Hattiesburg Weekly Times (1907), Beacon Light (1913), and South Mississippi Weekly (1982), their editors and publishers. Appendix B lists the major newspaper people of Hattiesburg.

The summary and conclusions of the study are based upon the content of the newspapers. The study includes a brief history of Hattiesburg and a chronological compilation in the form of appendices of all newspapers, editors, dates and numbers that this researcher found.

Methods

This study uses a narrative historical treatment, starting with a brief history of Hattiesburg then a chapter or section devoted to each newspaper. Office records, vertical files, books and back issues in paper and film files located at Cook Memorial and McCain

Libraries at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg American office, State Department of Archives and History at Jackson, Forrest County Courthouse, Hattiesburg City Hall, Hattiesburg Public Library, Hattiesburg Area Historical Society, Mississippi Press Association in Jackson, and the Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce were studied.

Historical studies in the past twenty years have established much interest in nonwritten sources, notably oral histories. In an effort to be consistent with contemporary historical research methods by going beyond the mere documentation of paper sources, personal interviews were arranged with current participants in the operations of the Hattiesburg American including Duane K. McCallister, president and publisher; Frank Sutherland, managing editor; Larry Burlingame, advertising director; James H. Clark, circulation director; Jess M. Hughes, Jr., marketing manager; Ben Lee, editorial page editor; Greg Lepien, controller; Doug Nobles, production director; Virginia Thomas, personnel manager; and Margaret White, librarian. Since some of these people are relatively new to the Hattiesburg American, other long-time employees who are no longer full-time at the paper also were consulted. These include James C. Bishop, advertising; Elliott Chaze, columnist and former city editor; and Fitz McCoy, columnist and former weekend editor. The rest are nonemployees having long-standing, relatively close ties with the Hattiesburg American,

Including Fannie Kyker, former newsstand owner, and the widows of two former owners, Mary (Mrs. C. G. Andrews) Harmon and Eunice (Mrs. Thomas) St. John.

Other sources included the personal papers of Leonard Lowrey (reporter and editor, 1938-82) with permission from the executor of his estate. Also church records, printing union records, area libraries, legislative journals, and genealogical records were used. Personal correspondence and personal visits to people having early newspapers or some association with early newspapers or newspaper people also were conducted.

Bits and pieces were gleaned from a number of different sources. Several histories and directories give short sketches of the newspapers and the men who ran them. No theses or dissertations have been written on the newspapers of Hattiesburg, but those pertaining to other cities were helpful. The most important primary source of information was copies of the newspapers themselves, and all back issues available were studied. Attention was directed toward special issues published around anniversary dates in the search for historical information of a journalistic nature.

Another primary source was the oral histories undertaken with selected persons and families having first-hand knowledge of behind-the-scene operations of the newspapers. Oral history is consistent with contemporary historical research methods. Numerous disciplines have gone beyond the mere documentation of

paper sources to make historical research even more powerful through personal contact with other people and the recording of their memories, songs, folklore, public speeches and quiet reminiscences, augmented by the portability and refinement of high-technology tape recorders and video cameras. Census records were used to locate modern-day descendants of early owners and editors in a search for personal papers, correspondence, diaries and other records of historical value.

Limitations

Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff write, "History at its simplest is the story of past facts."¹² But it would be impossible for one researcher to cover the infinite variety of possibilities concerning the histories of all the newspapers of Hattiesburg in the time allowed for this study or even in a lifetime. Therefore, the researcher selected from what "past facts" that actually materialized in the search and were obtainable and that seemed basic and pertinent for this particular history.

What did seem basic and pertinent were limited to the editorial, business and mechanical processes of the newspapers of Hattiesburg and to the lives of the men and women who operated these newspapers where data could be uncovered. Areas looked at include ownership; growth as evidenced by Audit Bureau of Circulation figures; business management including circulation, distribution, advertising, equipment, personnel; layout and design

changes; issues granted editorial comment, and especially comments concerning a given newspaper's perception of itself. What is published in the newspaper about that newspaper and other newspapers is of particular interest. Because many old records and newspapers are missing or simply are no longer in existence, out of necessity then, major emphasis was placed upon what was available.

Microfilm copies of the Forrest County News, Hattiesburg American, Hattiesburg Daily Progress, Hattiesburg Independent, Hattiesburg (Daily) News, and Saturday Evening Eye were available at four major sources: Hattiesburg American morgue, Hattiesburg Public Library, Mississippi State Department of Archives and History at Jackson, and University of Southern Mississippi. Scattered single copies also were found of the Hattiesburg Democrat, Hattiesburg Gazette, Hattiesburg Weekly Citizen and Hub Breeze. The complete run of Persons was obtained, on loan, from the publisher. Throughout the course of this research, cooperation was extended to the state archives in Jackson and to the McCain Library at the University of Southern Mississippi to permit microfilming and otherwise voluntarily participate in the expansion of their holdings. Owners of old previously unknown newspapers were encouraged to deposit their property with these institutions. According to Professors Edwin Emery and Michael Emery:

It has been said that the true newspaper must

meet the following qualifications: (1) it must be published at least once a week; (2) it must be produced by mechanical means (to distinguish it from the handwritten "news letters"); (3) it must be available to anyone willing to pay the price, regardless of class or special interests; (4) it must print anything of interest to a general public, as contrasted with some of the religious and business publications; (5) it must have an appeal to a public of ordinary literary skill; (6) it must be timely, or at least relatively so in light of technical development; and (7) it must have stability.¹³

Only "true newspapers" were included in this study.

Consequently, specialized papers such as the University of Southern Mississippi's Student Printz or William Carey College's Cobbler or Camp Shelby's Trench & Camp and its Reveille or the free-distribution papers such as The Advertiser, Hub City Community News or the most recent Chronicle and the earlier Daily Squibs are not within the scope of this study. Coverage of wars, political elections, current events or simply everyday life are important to the historian, but here the writer is concerned with the journalistic approach of how coverage was handled, being more interested in the journalist's story behind the event than the event itself, although not limited exclusively to it. This is a journalist's history about journalism in Hattiesburg.

Organization

Generally speaking, the project was organized in chronological order.

Chapter I contains a brief background of the study, along with a statement of the problem, purpose, methods used, limitations and organization.

Chapter II consists of a brief history of the time frame under consideration from the perspective of the country as a whole, the South in general, Mississippi and Hattiesburg, specifically.

Chapter III covers the first newspapers, what they looked like and what they contained. The following, in chronological order, are the known early newspapers:

Herald, Democrat, Courier, Gazette, American Citizen, Notice Day Book Gazette, Progress, News (predecessor of the Hattiesburg American), Weekly Citizen, Evening Post, Perry County Item (which later became the Forrest County Item), Weekly Times, Saturday Evening Eye, Busy Bee, South Mississippi Herald, Beacon Light, Tribune, Hub Breeze, Bulletin, South Mississippi Weekly, Independent, Forrest County News, Galaxy and Persons. Of these twenty-five newspapers, there is in existence at least one copy of nine of them. There does not seem to exist a complete, unbroken run of any major Hattiesburg paper. Those with incomplete but adequate enough of a run for study include Daily Progress, News, Saturday Evening Eye, Daily News, Hattiesburg American and South Mississippi Weekly. Papers for which no extant copies exist still could be studied using secondary sources including books, directories and other newspapers themselves because it was customary early on for a given newspaper to carry articles gleaned from other newspapers that had been received through a rather elaborate

exchange agreement. An extensive effort was made to locate as many others as possible. The list, as shown in Appendix A, was expanded or consolidated as new information came to light.

Chapter IV, the largest chapter in scope and content, covers the Hattiesburg American which was established 1 October 1917, with Howard S. Williams as editor. It continued the volume and number of the Hattiesburg News, which was founded in 1897 and became the Daily News in 1908.

A major section of Chapter IV is devoted to the Journalism career of Leonard Lowrey (1921-82), Hattiesburg American reporter and editor from 1938-82, and is based on his personal papers and interviews with his co-workers. Lowrey's career is significant not only because of the events of his day but also because of his interest in journalism education, his ties to the University of Southern Mississippi, his extracurricular community activities, the respect bestowed upon him by the community and his peers, and his dedication to the Hattiesburg American as evidenced by the reporting and service awards won during his tenure. Also of interest are the tracing of ownership over the years; the particulars of any libel suits; external pressures (i.e., advertisers dictating editorial policy and the Oscar Black hoax perpetrated by law enforcement); circulation and advertising revenue; profit and loss; and annual reports.

Another section concerns the coming of Gannett. Not only did this new ownership bring an expanded use of color into the local newspaper, but it also brought major changes in layout and design and in the business and mechanical departments. For instance, adjustments had to be made so that the Hattiesburg American could manage to share its plant with another Gannett publication, USA TODAY. Gannett principals are encouraged and expected to participate in local community affairs and Hattiesburg Gannett principals are no exception. For example, Duane K. McCallister is 1984-85 president of the Hattiesburg Civic Light Opera and a Mississippi Press Association board member. Frank Sutherland is 1984-85 national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi. Other considerations involving the coming of Gannett are the effect of the Gannett attitude toward public service on the remaining local newspaper principals; the establishment of the local in-house newsletter; the role of the Gannetteer, the Group's in-house publication; Gannett's emphasis upon entering journalistic competitions; and the criticism directed toward certain Gannett business practices or tactics. McCallister agreed to cooperate in the development of this chapter in exchange for prior approval of its final contents concerning factual details.

Finally, Chapter V contains a summary of the entire study, reviewing the important highlights in the history of the newspapers of Hattiesburg, drawing

conclusions and making recommendations for further study.

This is followed by two appendices which contain an alphabetical list of the newspapers of Hattiesburg and an alphabetical list of major newspaper people of Hattiesburg with whatever biographical data were found.

END NOTES

¹William H. Taft, Newspapers as Tools for Historians (Columbia, Mo.: Lucas Brothers Publishers, 1970), p. 1.

²Lucy Maynard Salmon, The Newspaper and the Historian (New York: Oxford University Press, 1923), p. 85.

³Allan Nevins, "American Journalism and Its Historical Treatment," Journalism Quarterly 36 (Fall 1959):412.

⁴Ibid., p. 414.

⁵Salmon, The Newspaper and the Historian, pp. 490-91.

⁶Joseph P. McKerns, "The Limits of Progressive Journalism History," Journalism History 4 (Autumn 1977):89.

⁷Daniel J. Boorstin, The Americans: The National Experience (New York: Random House, 1965; Vintage Books, 1965), p. 459.

⁸Charlene J. Brown, Trevor R. Brown and William L. Rivers, The Media and the People (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1978), p. 75.

⁹Thomas E. Felt, Researching, Writing, and Publishing Local History (Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1983), p. xiv.

¹⁰R. V. Brown, ed., The International Year Book (New York: Editor & Publisher, 1983), p. 172.

¹¹Charles Beard, "Written History as an Act of Faith," American Historical Review 39 (January 1934):220.

¹²Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, The Modern Researcher (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1977), p. 40.

¹³Edwin Emery and Michael Emery,
The Press and America: An Interpretative History of the
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CHAPTER II

EARLY MISSISSIPPI AND HATTIESBURG HISTORY

Mississippi During Reconstruction, 1865-1877

According to Emery and Emery, "American history in many respects starts afresh at the close of the Civil War."¹ The Emerys visualize these starts as the forces of industrialization, mechanization and urbanization which brought cultural, political and social changes.

On 9 April 1865 at the courthouse in Appomattox, Virginia, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant and the Civil War officially ended. The South was devastated. The economic, political and social structures of Mississippi were in ruins. The people and the land had suffered greatly. About one-fourth of the soldiers from Mississippi (roughly 27,000 white men, fifteen years or older) died in the war and many of those who did return were permanently disabled. Crops and livestock had been destroyed. Federal officers confiscated what remaining cotton had been hoarded. Political power fell to a triumvirate composed of freedmen (black former slaves), carpetbaggers (Northern opportunists) and scalawags

(fraternizing white Southerners).

Reconstruction did not lift the gloom and despair. President Andrew Johnson appointed William L. Sharkey as provisional governor until the 2 October 1865 election of Benjamin G. Humphreys. Under the new regime, Mississippi was, in 1865, the first state to pass a Black Code, which supposedly granted civil rights to blacks. However, it imposed restrictions on property ownership, sharecropping, court testimony, vagrancy and employment. By February, 1867, the legislature was forced to repeal most of these oppressive provisions. On the national level in 1867, Congress passed the Reconstruction Acts, which placed Mississippi and Arkansas together under military rule with Major General Edward Ord, U.S. Army, in command.

The principal goal of the military regime was the registration of voters, black and white men only, and preparation for a state constitutional convention. Before being readmitted into the Union, each of the eleven Confederate states had to ratify the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which grant civil rights to freedmen. Mississippi was readmitted last in 1870. Southerners found the activities of the new state governments so repugnant, especially in relationship to the freedmen, that they formed numerous secret organizations. Best known was the Ku Klux Klan, which used terrorist tactics to oust

Republicans and, in 1875, to regain Democratic control of state government. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821-1877), for whom Forrest County is named, organized the Klan into the Invisible Empire in 1868 and served as Grand Wizard.²

Agriculture, especially the old standby cotton, was counted upon for postwar economic recovery. But several natural disasters and a poor market caused farmers to diversify into cattle and grain. Though conditions began to improve, still many farms and plantations were lost for nonpayment of taxes. Mississippi historian Richard Aubrey McLemore stated, "By 1870 the state alone held more than two million acres of tax-delinquent lands."³

Between 1867 and 1873, the development of railroads was seen as a remedy to save dying towns and to create new ones. In addition to incorporation in 1884, the first railroad, the New Orleans and Northeastern, was built through Hattiesburg and ran from Meridian to New Orleans. Today it is part of the Southern Railway system. In 1897, the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad was built from Jackson through Hattiesburg to Gulfport, granting access to a deep-water port. Today this railroad line is part of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad. Gulfport, incidentally, was also founded by Captain Hardy. Other lines through town included the Queen and Crescent Route, Mississippi Central, Gulf Mobile & Northern, and the Bonhomie & Hattiesburg

Southern. As the spokes of a wheel radiate from the hub; so Hattiesburg became known as the "Hub City." According to the 1929 city directory, twenty-two passenger trains passed through town every twenty-four hours.⁴ The 1935 city directory not only refers to Hattiesburg as the "Hub City," but also as the "Gateway to the Gulf Coast."⁵

Before the war, fifty newspapers, mostly weeklies, were being published throughout the state. Andrew Marschalk is credited with bringing the first printing press into Mississippi. In 1790 he brought a small mahogany press from London to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He served in the U. S. Army for several years and was transferred to the Mississippi Territory in 1798. He brought his press and a small font (about thirty pounds) of type. In 1797 he printed a ballad entitled "The Galley Slave," which was the first printing in Mississippi.⁶ Shortly thereafter Marschalk built a larger printing press in order to accommodate a foolscap sheet upon which he printed the original territorial laws for Governor Winthrop Sargent at Natchez, which was then the state capital. In 1822 the capital was moved to Jackson because Jackson is closer than Natchez to the geographical center of the state. Patridge called Marschalk "the father of the typographic art in Mississippi."⁷ Marschalk sold his press for fifty dollars to Benjamin M. Stokes in 1799.⁸ Sydnor also credits

Marschaik with publishing "the first non-legal work composed and printed in Mississippi," namely, a 53-page pamphlet entitled, Paine Detected, or the Unreasonableness of Paine's Age of Reason. It was printed in Natchez in 1799.⁹

By the time the war ended, the plight of newspapers in war-ravaged Mississippi was "particularly alarming," according to Andrews.¹⁰ Some were able to publish only telegraphic dispatches. Only fourteen newspapers remained and it would take more than ten years to regain the wartime losses. McLemore said, "Not until 1880 did newspaper circulation recover its ante-bellum [sic]¹¹ level."¹²

In June 1866 the Mississippi Press Association was organized, headquartered in Jackson. J. M. Partridge of the Vicksburg Herald was elected president. Membership was limited to publishers. Of the fourteen charter newspapers, only the Jackson Clarion and Standard (now the Jackson Clarion-Ledger), Lexington Advertiser and Natchez Democrat are still published.¹³

On the national journalistic scene during this period an important era faded away with the death of several major figures, including James Gordon Bennett, Sr. (1795-1872), New York Herald; Samuel Bowles, III (1826-1878), Springfield (Mass.) Republican; William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878), New York Evening Post; Horace Greeley (1811-1872), New York Tribune; and Henry J. Raymond (1820-1869), New York Times. The new breed

would bring a "new journalism" to the new country. Up and coming during this period were Charles A. Dana (1819-1897), New York Sun; William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951), San Francisco Examiner; Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911) New York World and St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Edward Wyllis Scripps (1854-1926), Cleveland Press and United Press; and Henry Watterson (1840-1921), Louisville Courier-Journal. Of special interest to this research, Frank E. Gannett, editor, publisher, newspaper entrepreneur and founder of the Gannett Group that would one day own the Hattiesburg American, was born at the close of this period, in 1876, near Rochester, New York.

Out of the Reconstruction period did come some beneficial reform, such as reorganization of the court system, new schools, improved judiciary practices and more equitable taxes. Feelings of sectionalism in the South and in the North persisted and one-party politics developed in the South. Perhaps the one basic problem during Reconstruction was that no way was found to reapportion the huge plantations so that blacks could raise their own crops and livestock, and thus help support themselves. Ownership of land would have symbolized freedom to them. Instead they migrated to the larger cities. Without jobs or education, the racial issue worsened. In order to reconcile and unify the North and South, Henry W. Grady (1850-1889), journalist, part owner of the Atlanta Constitution and orator, "conceived that two things were necessary--the settlement

of the race problem and the development of the material resources of the South."¹⁴

The Progressive Era, 1880-1920

According to Baldwin:

The Progressive movement was merely the American phase of a worldwide liberal movement which was illustrated by the rise of labor in Scandinavia and Switzerland, of socialism in Germany and France, of the Liberal program of social welfare in England, and even by the liberal nationalism of Sun Yat-sen in China.¹⁵

Hence, this phenomenon was not unique to America but was actually a world movement.

America seemed to be starting over by expanding with new life and spirit. A basic ingredient in this expansion process was the easy availability of vast, untapped natural resources including, among others, lumber, oil, coal, copper, salt and iron. These resources, in turn, provided the impetus for technological advances, for instance in the areas of electricity, steel-making and machinery. In simultaneous and rapid succession, growth in transportation and manufacturing followed. The population shifted from the farm to the city and legions of new immigrants arrived.

According to Schlesinger:

Greater New York was then the world's largest center of foreign-born, a veritable amalgam of nations, with half as many Italians as Naples, as many Germans as Hamburg, twice as many Irish as Dublin and two and a half times as many Jews as Warsaw.¹⁶

All were in search of work and in need of consumer products. As a result, this new "melting pot" of

humanity aimed at self-betterment and believed progress meant working hard and saving money to accumulate more and more goods.

Prior to this period, transportation of people and goods was difficult and slow. Roads were few and the larger settlements were usually found along navigable rivers. Great sections of interior land were inaccessible and unsettled. Railroads provided the key to unlock this land and assisted in the switch from an agrarian to an industrial society. In 1850 no more than 10,000 miles of railroad track had been laid in the country. By 1900, 200,000 miles of track were in place.¹⁷ Railroad construction meant big sales for steel, coal and lumber interests. Railroads quickly and inexpensively moved raw materials to market and manufactured goods back out to the expanding population across the country. Access to overseas shipping lanes was possible when railroads terminated on the coasts. Not only railroads but other forms of transportation as well contributed to the economic and industrial growth of the country. In 1861 the first transcontinental telegraph began service. The first telephone message was sent in 1876 and the American Bell Telephone Company was established in 1880. By 1890 about three thousand miles of oil pipelines were in use. The post office began rural free delivery in 1896. Mass production of the Ford Model T began in 1909.

The presidents of this period were Benjamin

Harrison, Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft and Woodrow Wilson. The most colorful and dynamic was Roosevelt who assumed office in 1901 upon McKinley's assassination, vowing to "continue, absolutely unbroken, the policy of President McKinley for the peace, prosperity and the honor of our beloved country." His Square Deal policy for labor, industry and the public was responsible for strengthening regulations and control over big business. He was a strong advocate of natural resources conservation. Schlesinger wrote: "No nation in history had so wasted its physical assets or permitted such exploitation as the United States."¹⁸ Roosevelt preserved millions of wooded acres, particularly in the West, and instituted programs to replant cutover land. He was the first president to leave the continental United States, traveling to the Panama Canal in 1906 to view construction. He considered this project, with all its ramifications, his greatest achievement.

To the post-Reconstruction South came new problems of economics, sharecropping, race and sectional differences. Grady spoke out with hope and pride in a speech made in Augusta, Georgia, that immigrants "sent down from the sturdy settlers of the North will solve the Southern problem, and bring this section into full and harmonious relations with the North quicker than all the battalions that could be armed and martialled could do."¹⁹

Grady owned a quarter interest in the Atlanta Constitution and wrote a series of letter-articles to the New York Ledger which became so popular nationally that they were published in book form in 1890. He advocated industrial development for the South and the eradication of sectionalism. Grady's best known speech was given in December 1886 in New York City during which he coined the phrase, "The New South":

The new South is simply the old South under new conditions. It rejoices that slavery has been swept forever from American soil. It rejoices that the American Union was saved from the storm of war. . . . The courage in which the new South makes these declarations, and the sincerity in which it maintains them, are a heritage of the old South.²⁰

The North did not understand the race problem, he argued, and therefore interfered unwisely and misjudged the South. He felt two principles were essential:

First--That the whites shall have clear and unmistakable control of public affairs. They own the property. They have the intelligence. Theirs is the responsibility.

Second--That the whites and blacks must walk in separate paths in the South. As near as may be, these paths should be made equal--but separate they must be now and always.²¹

Many major reforms of the Progressive era were inaugurated at the state level. Mississippi, during this period, moved toward social reforms in public health, insurance and education. Steps were taken to eradicate contagious diseases (malaria and yellow fever). Women worked for the right to vote. Laws were passed banning liquor sales, regulating child labor and establishing uniform textbook practices in public schools. Millsaps

College was established in Jackson in 1892. After 1894 state prisoners could no longer be leased out to private persons. A new state department was created to assist farmers faced with the arrival of the boll weevil. The vast stands of virgin forests were recognized as Mississippi's greatest single natural resource. Railroads opened the interior forests of the state and linked lumber mills to seaports and major Northern cities. A new state capitol was dedicated in Jackson on 3 June 1903, the anniversary of the birthday of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

Mississippi has traditionally been primarily rural with urbanization slower than the national average. To be considered an urban area, according to McLemore, a city or town must have a minimum of 2,500 inhabitants. In 1890, twelve Mississippi cities were considered urban with a total population of 69,966. The largest city was Vicksburg with 13,373 population, but 94.6 percent of the state was rural. In 1900, twenty-two cities were urban with 120,035 population. In 1910, thirty-one cities were urban with 207,311 population. Vicksburg slipped from first place as the largest city, replaced by Meridian, and Hattiesburg moved up into fifth place.²²

In American demographics, 1920 is recognized as a benchmark year because the nation's urban population outnumbered the rural population for the first time. However, in Mississippi in 1920, the rural population was

86.6 percent; urban, 13.4. In 1920, Mississippi lost .4 percent of its population due to activity associated with World War I--enlistments and moving away to wartime jobs. In 1930, thirty-nine cities were recognized as urban with Jackson being the largest with a population of 48,282. In 1940, the number of urban cities jumped to forty-eight. The urban population has always been composed of fewer whites and more blacks than the national average, though the black segment, both urban and rural, has progressively declined since 1890 from 57.8 percent to 36.8 percent in 1970, according to census records.²³

From 1876 to 1890 attempts to convene a constitutional convention were not successful because the conservative whites were aggravated by federal interventions and fearful of not holding the majority vote against the blacks. Governor Robert Lowry vetoed a bill for a constitutional convention in 1888. Among the governor's objections were:

It (The Constitution of 1869) is for the most part the constitution of our fathers...The proposed convention is fraught with evil...It is better to bear the ills we have than fly to others we know nothing of...The time and circumstances are most inopportune...There is great diversity of views among our people...Cost is a serious objection...All alleged evils arising from the Constitution as it is can be remedied by constitutional amendments submitted to the people at the next election.²⁴

Newspapers across the state editorialized the issues. The senate did not have the votes to override the veto and the bill was killed. Those who wanted a new

constitution saw the Constitution of 1869 as representative of their forced military rule during Reconstruction. They also wanted assurances of political white supremacy, perceiving themselves as protectors of ignorant blacks. Those opposed thought it expensive, unnecessary, even dangerous. There seemed to be no solution for the wrongfulness of black voting power. According to McLemore, "Admittedly, the primary purpose of the convention was to devise a 'legal method' for safeguarding the political supremacy of the white race in state and local politics."²⁵

Finally, in February 1890, Governor John M. Stone signed into law a bill calling for a constitutional convention to convene in August 1890 with 134 delegates. When the convention met, only half the delegates were natives of Mississippi. All were Democrats with the exception of one Conservative, one National Republican, and one Republican. The latter was Isaiah T. Montgomery, 43, of Mound Bayou, the only Negro. Most were lawyers or farmers and the average age was fifty. "The revision of the elective franchise was the all-pervading objective of the convention,"²⁶ according to McLemore.

Debate centered around the "understanding clause" which required prospective voters to be able to read and write or understand the constitution before being allowed to register to vote. Opponents argued that, while this would disqualify most blacks, too many whites who happened to be illiterate would be disqualified as well.

When Montgomery verbalized his approval, the new plan successfully replaced the Constitution of 1869.

The 1869 document granted voting privileges to almost all men who were more than twenty years old, and had lived in Mississippi six months and the county, one month, and without poll tax or literacy test. The only exclusions were convicts, idiots, Indians who were not taxed and the insane. Voting rights were thus granted to the uneducated, impressionable freedman, the South's gravest concern. The Constitution of 1890 carefully changed all this, providing that: (1) A qualified elector must live in Mississippi for two years and in his voting precinct for one year before voting. (2) He must be registered four months before an election. (3) He must be able to read the constitution or understand or interpret it if read to him. (4) He must pay a poll tax and must have paid all taxes for the previous two years. (5) He could not vote if he had been convicted of certain crimes, including robbery and murder.

In 1898, the United States Supreme Court in *Williams v. Mississippi* unanimously upheld the constitutionality of the provisions concerning voter qualifications. It was not until 1920 that the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified and women got the right to vote. That same year, on a state ballot, Mississippi voted down this issue, though moot.

Patriotism runs deep in the South and World War I

(1914-1918) did much to end the remoteness of Mississippi and to rekindle the national spirit of camaraderie, the rallying to the Cause. During the 1920s, an agricultural depression and a great flood occurred, followed by the 1930 depression. World War II (1939-1945) was followed by agricultural boom times, industrialization and the civil rights movement, the latter having begun in 1954 when the U. S. Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional racially segregated schools.

According to Woodward, "Progressivism had its day in the South as elsewhere, but it no more fulfilled the political aspirations and deeper needs of the mass of people than did the first New Deal administration."²⁷

Founding of Hattiesburg, 1880

Settlers to this Choctaw Indian territory were of English, Scotch and Irish extraction, having been attracted to the area from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina by the vast stands of long-leaf yellow pine. Hattiesburg is located in the heart of the Piney Woods surrounded by 8,000 square miles of standing timber. More specifically, it is 88 miles southeast of Jackson, Mississippi; 85 miles southwest of Meridian, Mississippi; 108 miles northeast of New Orleans, Louisiana; and 97 miles northwest of Mobile, Alabama.

Thus situated in southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg is near the confluence of the Bouie and Leaf rivers and today is transversed by Interstate Highway 59

and U.S. Highways 11, 49 and 98, and Mississippi Route 42. The area was first known as Twin Forks and later as Gordonville, after an early settler, before becoming Hattiesburg.

Hattiesburg was founded in 1880 by Captain William Harris Hardy (1837-1917), a lawyer, railroad builder and Confederate veteran. On 3 November 1984, his descendents gathered from across the country for the formal unveiling of his bust on a downtown Hattiesburg plaza. Its inscription adds, "Statesman...Pioneer in the Development of the Resources of South Mississippi, Founder of the Cities of Hattiesburg and Gulfport, A Dreamer Whose Dreams Came True."

Hardy had been responsible for surveying the proposed route of the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad and selecting locations for railroad stations. He foresaw the construction of another railroad line from Jackson to the Gulf and noted that the two lines would intersect near a place then called Gordonville. At this site he built a depot, station house, railroad roundhouse and repair shops. McCarty noted that, in 1883, the first train to make the Meridian to New Orleans run on the New Orleans & Northeastern stopped at Gordonville Station.²⁸ By the following year fifty-two sawmills were in operation along the new railroad line and more than 250 settlers were in Gordonville. It was incorporated as a town in 1884 and renamed for Hardy's second wife, Hattie Lott Hardy. Within twenty years,

four lines would intersect at the Hub City en route to Gulfport, Jackson, Meridian, Mobile, Natchez and New Orleans.

According to Dr. William D. McCain, "The material development in South Mississippi directly traceable to his (Hardy's) vision, initiative, sound planning, determination, hard work, patience and ability is so vast that it cannot be estimated in dollars and cents."²⁹ In brief, it was the timber industry and ease of transportation (river, rail, road) that contributed to the development of Hattiesburg or, as Grady put it, "wildernesses pierced with iron rail."³⁰

According to census records and city directories, the population of Hattiesburg had grown explosively from the earliest recorded figure of 35 in 1880, to 18,601 in 1930, to 40,829 in 1980.³¹ Between 1900 and 1910, the population more than doubled, and quadrupled during the first thirty years of the twentieth century. In a special "Industrial Edition" of the Saturday Evening Eye, the editor, Gaines S. Dobbins, dramatized this growth by writing:

From a village of barely 600 inhabitants twenty-two years ago to a city of 14,500 at the present; from a property valuation of about \$30,000 in 1885 to nearly \$8 million in 1905--twenty years since; from a dense pine forest, much of which twenty-five years ago had never been seen or traversed by man, to one of the wealthiest, most populous and prosperous sections of the state; in a word, springing from a wilderness to a metropolis within the phenomenally short time of less than thirty years--such is the record of Hattiesburg,

typical of the New Era of the New South.³²

In 1899 the town was given city status. The first decade of the twentieth century represented a boom period for Hattiesburg unlike anything the state had ever seen before or since, all attributed to railroads and the lumber industry.

An article in a 1903 New Orleans Picayune shows that the Newman Lumber Company of Hattiesburg alone had a capacity for producing 250,000 feet of lumber per 24 hours and employed nearly 1,500 men. With this capacity, timber holdings were reduced at the rate of thirty acres a day. In 1908 the census report indicated that Mississippi ranked third in lumber production. The 1912 city directory called Hattiesburg a lumber capital, having six sawmills within the city limits and enough other mills within thirty miles to produce more lumber than any other locality in the world.³³

According to the 1918 city directory, three million feet of lumber were produced daily and Hattiesburg had the largest machine works in the state, besides railroad shops, foundries, gravel plants, laundries, factories, four printing plants and a book bindery.³⁴

While the railroads stimulated the lumber industry and, conversely, the lumber industry stimulated the transportation networks that had developed, within about thirty years the timber was depleted.

Police and fire departments were organized,

streets were paved and, in 1905, a streetcar system was started. Hattiesburg was much larger than Augusta, the county seat, so in 1908 Perry County was subdivided to form Forrest County with Hattiesburg as its seat. In 1911 the mayor-commission form of government with three elected commissioners replaced the aldermen system, which lasted for 74 years. On 1 July 1985 a council form of government with six elected officials replaced the mayor-commission system.

The war effort created the establishment of Camp Shelby (formerly Camp Crawford) in 1917. It boosted the economy of Hattiesburg somewhat, depending on the camp's level of military activity. "Mobilization for World War I capped Hattiesburg's two-decade boom. The wartime appetite for lumber was immense, and the activation of Camp Shelby added to Hattiesburg's wartime growth," according to McCarty.³⁵ The camp was deactivated after World War I, reopened in 1934 for the exclusive use of the national guard, reactivated in 1940 and was at its height in 1943, according to McLemore.³⁶

Another gauge of the city's growth is a comparison the assessed valuation over the years. According to city directories, in 1899 it was \$709,000; 1909, \$3.29 million; 1921, \$10 million; 1935, \$15.22 million; 1941, \$14.46 million; 1950, \$24.69 million; 1961, \$42.40 million; 1971, \$62.38 million; and in 1981, \$114.30 million.³⁷

The number of telephones in service also is indicative of Hattiesburg's growth. According to city directories, in 1935, 2,350 telephones were in service; in 1941, 4,772; 1950, 9,052; 1961, 16,981; 1971, 32,526; and in 1981, 60,509.³⁸

Current information furnished by the Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce showed the largest employers as the University of Southern Mississippi with 3,654 employees; Forrest General Hospital, 1,275; Hercules, 675; Northern Electric, 500; and Methodist Hospital, 475.³⁹ The lumber industry and railroads are no longer very active. Over the years, Hattiesburg's economic base has been broadened further to include chemicals, textiles, metal products and reforestation. For example, chief industries, as listed in the 1984 city directory, include apparel manufacturing, food processing, metal working, concrete products, chemical manufacturing, oil refining and, finally, timber products.⁴⁰ Eighty-five area manufacturers employ about 7,000. The Illinois Central Gulf Railroad moves freight through town and the Southern Railroad furnishes passenger service. Employment figures as of December 1984 indicate the total employed at 44,380 with 9.5 percent unemployed in the area encompassing Forrest, Lamar and Perry Counties.⁴¹

At the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg's largest employer, total enrollment for the Spring 1985 semester was 10,288 graduate and

undergraduate students. For the 1984-85 fiscal year, the University's total budget was \$75 million, of which \$37 million was dedicated to salaries and wages.

The rise of the university began seventy-five years ago. A normal college was created by the state legislature in 1910 for the training of teachers.⁴² Hattiesburg bid \$250,000 for construction and free land and was awarded the location. The first structures included Hattiesburg Hall, Forrest County Hall, College Hall, Industrial Cottage (now Honors House), President's Home (now Alumni House) and a temporary dining hall. The first classes began in September 1912 with 200 students, eighteen faculty members and President Joseph Anderson Cook. The current president, Dr. Aubrey Keith Lucas, is the sixth president and assumed office in July 1975. USM primarily serves the southern half of the state as one of the state's eight university centers. Its academic disciplines are organized into colleges of business administration, education and psychology, fine arts, honors, liberal arts, science and technology; schools of health-physical education-recreation, home economics, library science, nursing, social work; graduate school; and division of continuing education. Its major functions are teaching, research and service to society.

By comparison to the other major state universities, the University of Southern Mississippi (founded 1910) enrolled 10,300 students with 600 faculty

in 1975, and by 1985 had populations of 11,333 students with 655 faculty. In 1975, Mississippi State University (founded 1878) enrolled 9,358 students with 768 faculty, and in 1985, 12,325 students with 864 faculty. The University of Mississippi (founded 1848), also known as Ole Miss, enrolled 9,000 students with 420 faculty in 1975, and 9,236 students with 574 faculty in 1985.43

Besides the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg is home to William Carey College, a four-year, Southern Baptist institution; as well as seven AM and two FM radio stations; one operating television station and one in the planning stages; five banks; five savings and loan associations; two hospitals; 143 churches, of which sixty-nine are Baptist; and more than fifty clubs and organizations.

Thus, from a crude frontier town of 35 in 1880, Hattiesburg has blossomed into a cultural center of 40,829 in 1980, blending Old South provinciality with New South progress.

END NOTES

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¹⁷Merle Curti et al., An American History, 2 vols. (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1950), 2:7.

¹⁸Schlesinger, Rise of Modern America, p. 210.

¹⁹Grady, New South, p. 139.

²⁰*Ibid.*, pp. 146-47.

²¹*Ibid.*, pp. 239, 244-45.

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²³*Ibid.*, p. 369.

²⁴*Ibid.*, p. 7.

²⁵*Ibid.*, p. 10.

²⁶*Ibid.*, p. 12.

²⁷Stephenson and Coulter, History of the South, vol. 9: Origins of the New South, 1877-1913, by C. Vann Woodward, p. 39.

²⁸Kenneth G. McCarty, Jr., ed., Hattiesburg: A Pictorial History (Jackson, Miss.: University Press of Mississippi, 1982), p. 6.

²⁹President emeritus of the University of Southern Mississippi, in the dedication

speech he delivered at the unveiling.

³⁰Grady, New South, p. 144.

³¹Other decennial figures show the population to be 1,172 in 1890; 4,175 in 1900; 11,733 in 1910; 13,270, 1920; 21,026, 1940; 29,474, 1950; 34,989, 1960; and 38,277, 1970.

³²Saturday Evening Eye, 16 December 1905.

³³McLemore, p. 371.

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³⁵McCarty, Hattiesburg: Pictorial History, p. 11.

³⁶McLemore, ed., History of Mississippi, 2:121.

³⁷Polk's Hattiesburg City Directory, introductory pages.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Interview with Paul Argo, Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 15 August 1984.

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⁴²University of Southern Mississippi, Undergraduate Bulletin, 1985-86 (Hattiesburg: University of Southern Mississippi, 1984), p. 13.

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CHAPTER III

THE FIRST NEWSPAPERS

Introduction

Thirty-four true newspapers have been published in Hattiesburg since the earliest known ones in 1884. No complete, unbroken run of a daily newspaper, however, has survived. More is known, of course, about those newspapers for which extant copies have been found. Once-thriving newspapers, now vanished, have been included with whatever secondary information could be found about them. This chapter covers all the true newspapers except the Hattiesburg American, which is covered in a subsequent chapter, and includes what these newspapers looked like, what they contained, how they were alike and how they differed, along with some information about the newspaper people who owned and operated them.

Eight free-distribution newspapers deliberately were omitted from this chapter because they are not true newspapers, according to the definition used by Emery and Emery.¹ They are mentioned, nevertheless, in Appendix A in acknowledgment and recognition of their existence. These include the Advertiser, Chronicle, Daily Squibs, Hub City Advertiser, Hub City Community

News, Hub-City Shopper-Advertiser, Petal Journal and Times Advertiser (see Illustrations 1 through 7). The two college papers and those that have been published by Camp Shelby are excluded.

Over the years newspaper survival has been difficult at best. As author and critic Marya Mannes wrote in the New York Times:

(Newspapers) can be used by men as barriers against their wives. It is still the only effective screen against the morning features of the loved one, and as such performs a unique human service. The second advantage is that you can't line a garbage pail with a television set--it's usually the other way around.²

Perhaps the most often quoted use for old newspapers is wrapping fish, attributed by the New York Times to Lord Champion, who claimed that the English habit of wrapping fish and chips in newspaper flavored the taste, "I am such a great connoisseur that I can tell the difference between the tang of the Beaverbrook Daily Express and the mellow flavor of The Times."³ Even the Mississippi Press Association, as a humorous plug to use newspapers for advertising, distributed a poster listing one hundred things to do with newspapers, none of which was archival in nature (see Illustration 8). With this commonly held attitude, it is a wonder any paper ever survives. In addition, because of the lack of complete records and the disposition of newspaper people to be notoriously nonhistorical by nature, the likelihood of

HATTIESBURG'S LARGEST CIRCULATION PAPER

CPS
INC.

THE ADVERTISER

HATTIESBURG
PETAL23,000 Circulation in
Forrest & Lamar Counties

Volume 8, Number 10

October 24, 1984

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

October Sale and Clearance

SKIRTS 9.99 Orig. \$18 to \$22 Crisp Fall Color Turtls, or Heather flannels	Wool Blend SKIRTS 14.99 Orig. 3/4 to \$25 Perfect Make for Blazers	BLAZER OR SLACKS 18.99 Slacks Orig. \$29 Blazer Orig. \$42
SPORTSWEAR SEPARATES 14.99 Jackets, Sweaters, Pants, tops Originally \$20 to \$40	Cotton & Blend VESTS and SWEATERS 9.99 to 14.99 Originally \$20-\$32	Women & Kid TOPS 9.99 Originally \$17 to \$24
Better SLACKS and BAGGIES 12.99 to 16.99 Originally \$24 to \$28	Serge Valente SWEAT SHIRTS 7.99 Orig. \$15	Colours BLAZERS Wide or narrow waist 23.99 Originally \$38 to \$46

A New Direction...

LOURINDA'S

SHOP
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-6:00
Sundays 10am-5pm
194 S. 17th Ave.
Hattiesburg, MSForrest Gate
Shopping Center
PetrolVISA
MASTERCARD
AMERICAN EXPRESS

BRIDGE WORK PROGRESSING WELL



Officials report work on the new 4th Street bridge at Highway 49 in Hattiesburg is ahead of schedule. Although the bridge is not scheduled for completion until February 1985, the new widened facility is expected to be in use before year's end.

THE ADVERTISER ADDS
NEW FEATURES

Regular readers of THE ADVERTISER noticed a change in last week's issue, which was an indication of things to come. News photos on the front page, obituaries on page two and local news items throughout the paper are just a few of the improvements being made in THE ADVERTISER as we grow and expand to serve the Hattiesburg Trade Area. Reader acceptance has been phenomenal during our two and a half year history in Hattiesburg. Now, with additional reader interest material being added, we look forward to more years of even better service to the area.

Watch for more feature items in the future and for more and more of the ever popular Buck Ads. We realize that our success comes from the remarkably high level of readership that our paper continues to achieve and as we add items of interest to an even larger audience of readers we plan to provide an even stronger communications service to Hattiesburg. THE ADVERTISER is already the largest circulation paper in the Hattiesburg-Petal market. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Thank you for making THE ADVERTISER a part of your life.

Woodley Elementary School Hosts
Halloween Carnival.

The Woodley Elem. School Halloween Carnival will be Friday, October 26, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the school on 21st Ave. There will be a Space Walk, fishing pond, raffle walk, many games, things, the haunted house and the witch on the party. There will also be home cooked cakes, candy, pie, and other home made items in the traditional Country Store. There also will be hand made crafts and Christmas items. The public is invited to join in the fun and the hot dog supper.

Friends of Kamper Park and Zoo Plan Fund Raiser

The Friends of Kamper Park & Zoo are having a membership drive and fund raising day in the zoo on Sat. Oct. 27th from 9 to 6. There will be special events, a show featuring Chinese wrinkle dogs, pizza prizes and a gold fish bowl race. Booth space available, \$10 per space on first come first serve basis.

Mississippi 21 Public Hearing
Scheduled in Hattiesburg, Oct. 26

A public hearing to discuss the issue of raising the legal drinking age in Mississippi for beer and light wine to 21 will be held in the Saenger Theater in downtown Hattiesburg Thursday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m. Gov. Bill Allain is scheduled to speak to the forum. The hearing in Hattiesburg is to allow pro and con sides in south Mississippi to express their views toward raising the legal drinking age in the state to 21.

Sales Tax Collections Up In
Hattiesburg in September

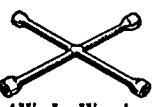
The Mississippi State Tax Commission has just released retail sales tax collection figures for September and once again Hattiesburg shows strong gains over September last year. Retail sales tax collections are a popular indicator of economic activity. Hattiesburg posted the third highest level of retail sales tax collection in the state with \$464,313. (\$407,131 in September 1983) trailing only Jackson with \$2,087,245 and Meridian who jumped to \$337,869 (as compared to \$401,828 in 1983). Other nearby communities reported the following figures for September 1984: Laurel \$390,781, (\$321,212 in September 1983), Petal \$44,727 (\$40,025 in September 1983).


**POPE'S
for
PARTS**



89¢/qt.
 GTX 20W/50
 Premium Super Multi-grade Motor Oil. Specially formulated to meet the demands of today's smaller, higher-revving engines. Castrol Engineered for smaller cars.


Engineered for smaller cars


4-Way Lug Wrench
\$2.79
Saving money! Castrol 20W/50 has been in them 11x, and regularly \$5.95



Time-up Tool Kit
\$12.99
1 Piece Kit. Includes: Quality 1/2" drive sockets, extension bars, 1/2" drive ratchet, 1/2" drive breaker bar, 1/2" drive torque wrench, 1/2" drive ratchet, 1/2" drive breaker bar, 1/2" drive torque wrench.

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Renault Alliance convertible. As new America's lowest priced convertibles.




Renault Alliance. European technology you never thought you could afford. And it's built in America.



Renault Encore GS. European styled performance. With 413 horse horsepower for 11% And it's built in America.

Plus check out Renault Fuego and Sportwagon


Also see America's largest selection in 4-wheel drive.



Jeep Cherokee. First vehicle ever named 4x4 of the year. In an three leading off-road magazines.



Jeep Wagoneer. Same power and ruggedness as Cherokee. But more luxurious.



Jeep CJ. One of a kind excitement. A feeling you can get only in a Jeep. More to see! Grand Wagoneer, American Eagle and more.

THE ONES TO WATCH ARE THE ONES TO BUY.

MARTIN MOTOR SALES
1419 W. PINE HATTIESBURG, MS. 582-8341

Illustration 1. Front Page of The Advertiser
24 October 1984 (Vol. 3, No. 16)

FREE

HATTIESBURG'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER • CIRCULATION 27,811 BY U.S. MAIL

THE
CHRONICLE

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 1

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS...

HATTIESBURG, MS

CIRCULATION: 27,811

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1985

POSTAL
CUSTOMERBULK RATE
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PAID
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Wiley Fairchild, a well known philanthropist

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following, Fort Walton, located between feature article in a Sunbelt and Seminary. He recalls reflection of the true character of the L-shaped school building of Hattiesburg oil executive, where three teachers taught Wiley Fairchild. The editor studies one through eight years accept full responsibility for any contents as well as originating the idea to locate, who "fell into a new line of work" one day as he attempted to cross over an Alabama River.

By JAMES S. LOWERY
Chronicle Editor

Substitute the west community in the John Kennedy bridge collapsed in phase, "Ask out what our sending driver, truck and logs into country can do for you, but what the water. Fortunately, he escaped your state for your country, and the accident, without serious the goals of Hattiesburg oil executive, which followed the incident they with up, then 21 years resulted in the development of the sitting behind his desk in his of the South's most successful Hattiesburg office, a certain bridge construction firm.

The incident concerned the elder Fairchild so much that he decided to submit a bid to the Covington County Board of Supervisors to build the bridge. Surprisingly enough, he was awarded the contract, the bridge was rebuilt and he was on his way to building a business, W. R. Fairchild, Ltd.

With his father entering the business, he apparently forwent talent in young Wiley. He held his education at an early age for him to learn the business from the beginning.

That's exactly what has happened with his business. Fairchild so much that he decided to submit a bid to the Covington County Board of Supervisors to build the bridge. Surprisingly enough, he was awarded the contract, the bridge was rebuilt and he was on his way to building a business, W. R. Fairchild, Ltd.

He and his brothers and sisters attended a small school known as

Depression never really hit home as far as the Fairchild family was concerned because of the line of work in which they were engaged.

However, during those days the Fairchild's were not actually on "easy street" either. They suffered much anxiety over the time limit and penalty clause for failing to meet deadlines on contracted jobs. Many months of sleep were lost because of \$2,500 a day penalties that had to be paid if the job wasn't completed on time. However, the Fairchild's took advantage of each situation and learned from the experience. They learned how to protect themselves by the knowledge they gained.

Fairchild attributes the family's success to dedication, hard work and honesty. "My mother and father impressed on me at a very young age that there is no substitute for honesty and hard work," he recalls. "I've given that advice full credit for being successful." Love and respect offered in his eyes when he reveals the apparent fond memories he holds of his parents. His father taught him honesty and respect for his fellowman and he still believes today that he can learn from all walks of life. Through the years Fairchild has expressed the love and honesty taught him by his father to his family members, friends and acquaintances.

It was dedication, coupled with consistent hard work, that built the Fairchild empire into what he says that it is so well known for today.

Fairchild didn't stop with the construction business. However, as the construction business grew, other business ventures surfaced, such as a now successful oil exploration firm that Fairchild



OIL EXECUTIVE — Hattiesburg's oil executive Wiley Fairchild comes from a family whose history is interesting to say the least. Fairchild has opened many doors to many area businesses within South Mississippi and his charitable contributions add to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

developed and operates today. He explains that his brother Rodney operates the construction firm now and he is left with the operation of the oil exploration business which he enjoys.

"My work is my hobby," he comments. "I come to this office every day of the world because I just enjoy working."

The profile he has earned from his "hobby" working have not been stored for just his own use. Actually, quite the contrary is true. One could easily say that the word "sharing" was coined years ago with men like Wiley Fairchild in mind.

The following is an excerpt from a September 21, 1984 editorial viewpoint delivered by Marvin Heubahn of WJAM-TV.

"I have never known of a more generous man. Hattiesburg and South Mississippi are much better places for his being here. I suspect if there are any worthwhile charities that haven't benefited from his presence, it must be that they haven't asked."

When most of us think in terms of giving, it's hundreds or thousands. When Wiley Fairchild gets involved, it's usually hundreds of thousands. Oh, I know many have said it's tax dollars he's saving. For the uninitiated, at least 90 percent of everything he gives away comes out of pocket.

"I hope" will not be in appreciating what this man has meant to Hattiesburg and its citizens."

Mr. Fairchild has shared with many needs families through the years. His charitable contribu-

tions, to mention only a few through the years with awards include donations in William that number too many to mention. Cary College, the University of Mississippi, the University of Southern Mississippi, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, financial aid to students attending college, has been honored with, he is most grateful to the more to many area businesses and many, many more. Award with the Girl Scouts. A man to best explain his sharing with others, two years ago he received a telephone call from a resident of the Woodland Hills Nursing Home, people, he admits that he would in Collins. The elder resident was requesting a piano for the pleasure friends and acquaintances in and enjoyment of the residents. South Mississippi.

Well, sure enough, a few days before Christmas a new Hamilton nursing home was delivered to the such a sharing and caring person? Wiley Fairchild has stood in his place because he has truly earned his respected destiny.

Hattiesburg schedules first primary election May 14

By TIM ROUBE

Chronicle Staff Writer
For the second time in 101 years, the City of Hattiesburg is changing its type of government. Among the many changes, the first one is the making of the new government.

When Hattiesburg incorporated in 1901 it began operating under the mayor-alderman type of government. The city operated under this form of government until 1911 when it was changed to its present mayor-councilman type.

Beginning July 1, the city will maintain its government form to the mayor-council type. The mayor-council form of government increases the number of representatives from two to five within 10 days, may attend any meeting of the council, but is not the mayor. The city clerk shall serve as the clerk of the council, keep the minutes and records, maintain and compile the ordinances and resolutions of the council. The mayor chooses an

administrative assistant which works with the city clerk. Overby providing a balance of power. The council has two months from awarding in to prepare the budget. After concluding that business and the business of setting in a new government, it begins meeting on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of each month. This is the minimum meeting schedule required by law.

The job of a council member is part time job and no council member shall be a member of any other commission or board under their jurisdiction.

The mayor shall enforce the charter and ordinances of the city, approve or disapprove any ordinance, submitted to him within 10 days, may attend any meeting of the council, but is not the mayor. The city clerk shall serve as the clerk of the council, keep the minutes and records, maintain and compile the ordinances and resolutions of the council. The mayor chooses an

Hattiesburg municipal elected officials. The first primary of the election will be held May 14, followed by the second primary for run-off on May 21. These are closed primaries where only a Democratic Party Representative can be voted for on a Democratic Party Ballot and only a Republican Party Representative can be voted for on a Republican Party Ballot.

The general election is scheduled for June 4.

The following is a list of the candidates, their party affiliation and the answer to two questions they were asked which are "Why did you decide to run for this office?" and "What will be your first act?"

MAYOR CANDIDATES
A. L. (Bud) Gierard, Jr., is seeking the office of mayor as a Democrat. His comments were as follows: "I decided to run for mayor because of a strong feeling that city government needs to be returned to all the people so they can participate in the government process. I will run on a platform of an open door policy." He lists his qualifications which include the following: Executive Director of Forest County Industrial Board for 18 years, Decorated Veteran and holds rank of Lt. Colonel in the Temple Baptist Church.

money is going. I see the same service but with higher taxes. I propose to do something about it. If I williamson is elected to the office of mayor as a Democrat, his comment was: "Having served as a commissioner for 12 years, my priorities are to push industry, continue the essential services, better school, and to ask you, the people, to check my record and give me a chance. With my business and accounting background, I am qualified to do the job as Mayor of Hattiesburg."

W. L. "Jub" Hunter is seeking the office of mayor as a Republican. His comments were as follows: "I decided to run for mayor because of a strong feeling that city government needs to be returned to all the people so they can participate in the government process. I will run on a platform of an open door policy." He lists his qualifications which include the following: Executive Director of Forest County Industrial Board for 18 years, Decorated Veteran and holds rank of Lt. Colonel in the Temple Baptist Church.

U.S.M. Country Club, Masonic development of Camp Phibby, Lodge, Elks Lodge, Rotary Club, Mississippi Economic Council, seeking re-election to the office of Mayor as a Republican. His comment was as follows: "I first Manufacturers Association and I sought the office to see if the city government could be run as a business. I wanted to return to my

"My priorities are based on my fellowman some service as part of the city government. I am grateful for being in business to establish town meetings and an for 30 years. During my advisory council to involve people administration, the budget has been in government, leave uniform growth largely due to inappropriate and equitable property appraisal 14 million dollars in federal and adjust millage to produce only grants. From 1977-1980, which the tax revenue needed and was a period of national economic

stimulate waste in city government, promote an aggressive worth of construction took place in economic development program, Hattiesburg. During the years support efforts to make our city 1980-1984, a period which was the school system number one in the most economically depressed state, eliminate pollution of period since 1960, through the streams including Gordons Creek, city's efforts were able to solve the city's solid waste generate 96 million dollars in problem, provide incentive to construction. There were literally their run-down properties spread during the depressed economic the city's recreational facilities period as a result of this city-led and programs, upgrade streets, construction.

water, and sewage systems. My priorities are move the actively support U.S.M. (the emphasis of urban renewal from University of Southern Mississippi downtown to the neighborhoods Texas Christian and William Carey College, will move the emphasis of community to assure a proper recreation, industrial and environment for continued commercial development. growth, support growth and (please turn to page 8)

There will be up to 125 permanent and temporary jobs created and up to 50 part time jobs created. The construction phase will reduction in room rates as soon and will provide up to 25 already own the Wendy's franchise in Hattiesburg and they are soon opening a third on Hampton Inn, a limited service hotel, is comparable to Holiday Inn. Inns without the overhead of a when in following, will provide up restaurant, lounge or conference to 50 part time jobs.

New industry brings jobs

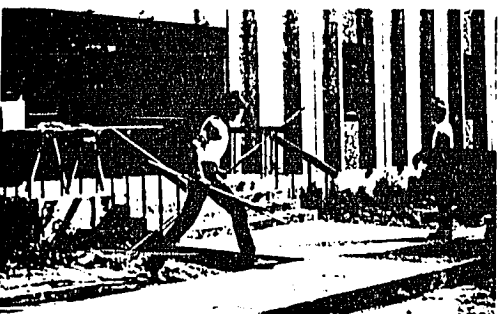
HATTIESBURG — Up to 100 jobs on Highway 49 north, are being created by Hattiesburg Cable has already begun producing instrument panel Yasco City, Mississippi. This harnessing that hold the wire span, under the name of Hattiesburg Cable Company, a Motors Automobile. These are division of Hattiesburg Cable Company, supplied to Packard Electric has moved into a leased facility on Raspberry Street, located behind the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company and that ten people are already

employed, leaving 40 jobs open immediately and eventually as many as two hundred total employees are in the works.

A Yasco Industries spokesman says the decision to expand the facility into the 66,000 square foot plant here was made because of lack of space in the Yasco City facility.

Carlisle Corp. expansion means jobs

There will be up to 125 permanent and temporary jobs created and up to 50 part time jobs created. The construction phase will reduction in room rates as soon and will provide up to 25 already own the Wendy's franchise in Hattiesburg and they are soon opening a third on Hampton Inn, a limited service hotel, is comparable to Holiday Inn. Inns without the overhead of a when in following, will provide up restaurant, lounge or conference to 50 part time jobs.



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS — are busy preparing the facility which houses Hattiesburg Cable Company, a division of Hattiesburg Cable Company. The company recently expanded their facilities to the Hattiesburg area and produce instrument panel harnesses that hold wires behind the dashboards of General Motors Automobiles.



FIRST HAMPTON INN HOTEL — Hattiesburg's first Hampton Inn hotel is scheduled to undergo construction soon. The construction project will employ up to 100 temporary people and 25 permanent positions will be available when the new inn opens. (Photo courtesy of Carlisle Corporation)

Illustration 2. Front Page of The Chronicle
4 May 1985 (Vol. 1, No. 1)

THE DAILY SQUIBS

VOL. 1—NO. 187

HATTIESBURG, MISS., MAY 10, 1923.

FREE DISTRIBUTION

Published by DEVER PRINTING COMPANY



GEORGE T. DENNIS
Candidate For
Railroad Commissioner
Southern District

Shorty Roberts is to sing a song tomorrow night at the K. P. minstrel show that is not synonymous with his nature. The song is entitled "Oh, death where is thy sting?" In a recent storm Shorty was scared until he didn't have to wonder where the sting was. He knew.

It is said that a water leak at the corner of Williams street and Southern Avenue has been there for over a year. The place is continually muddy and very unsightly. A citizen who lives near reports same.

THE HUB

HATTIESBURG, MISS.

Store News

THURSDAY, MAY 10th

OUR
GREAT
RED
TAG
SALE
BEGINS
FRIDAY
MAY 11th
COME!

PROFIT AND LOSS

Win and the world laughs with you;
And claims you for one of its own;
Fail and the mob laughs at you
Or let's you severely alone.

Win and the world will heed you;
Though you speak like a witless
rube;
Fail and discourse like Plato,
And the world will vote you a boob.

Win and the world invites you
To banquets and luncheons galore;
Fail and the world's suspicious
And guardedly closes its door.

Win and the world will pledge you
In liquors the gods would sip;
Fail and by stealth you resort to
A doubtful flask on the hip.

Still, on the other hand—

Win and you're nuts for grafters
Who are looking for lambs to
fleece;

Fail and you may be lonely,
But at least you can rest in peace.

Win and the fulsome wheedlers
Will steadily dog your trail;
While only the friends who love you
Will stick to you when you fail.

BASE BALL MOTHERS DAY

All mothers, and their children below the seventh grade will be allowed to see the game free at Kamper Park Friday at 3:30 P. M. Gulf Coast Military Academy vs. Hattiesburg High School. This game and the one Saturday will decide the Coast championship.

Abraham Curry, proprietor of the firm of Curry Bros., grocers, has completed the remodeling of his building opposite the postoffice and fitted up many nice offices. These offices have already been rented to various professional people and are neat, clean and have abundant light. Abraham Curry is a progressive citizen and is always striving to progress with the city and county. We need more citizens like him.

The Knights of Pythias minstrel tomorrow afternoon and night is all to the good and in the rehearsals talent of an unexpected nature has been developed. The K. of P. boys have worked diligently to make the show a success and the people of the city will patronize it.

The Chinese bandits have released part of the captives they held for ransom.

WHAT THE DOCTOR TOLD THE LAWYER

"I had a very peculiar dream last night," declared the doctor. "I dreamt that I went to heaven, but there was a big line ahead of me waiting to be checked off by St. Peter. Suddenly Saint Peter glanced up and called to a man some distance behind me in the line and passed him into Heaven. I was somewhat annoyed at this discrimination, and commented upon it when I reached Saint Peter. 'Saint Peter smiled and said, 'You are a doctor, and I have doctors here every day; but that man was a lawyer, and it is years since I saw one of them.'"

What the Lawyer Told the Doctor

"I had a dream last night, and I dreamt that I went to Heaven. There was also a line ahead of me waiting to be passed by Saint Peter, who checked them off in a book. Finally it came my turn and I told Saint Peter my name. He glanced down the page of the book, reread it, frowned, glanced back several pages, and then turned ahead several pages. Finally he found my name.

"Here you are," he said. "You were not supposed to die until 1925. Who was your doctor?"

On Monday, May 7, one hundred and fifty county women met in Vicksburg, Miss., and held a hat show and bread contest, under the auspices of Miss Pearl Polk, Tri-County Agent for Perry, Wayne and George Counties. Before the day was over this group of women sent for the Board of Supervisors to come before them and discuss making appropriation for an all time County Home Demonstration Agent. Needless to say they got the promise of the Board to put one on in September. Surely it is a hopeful sign where rural women come together in a county wide effort to secure those things which mean better homes, and better opportunities for the girls of those homes.

Mrs. M. L. Grant, who will direct the Cantata, "The Lady of the Shalotte" for the ladies of Circle C. of the Trinity Guild has already started rehearsals. The best talent available in the city will appear in this Cantata and the ladies of the Guild guarantee to produce one of the best Cantatas that has even been heard in the State.

The cold weather is very damaging to the new cotton crop. Farmers with very much acreage are despondent.



WILLIAM A. FERGUSON
Grand Patron of the Order of
Eastern Star
In Session at Greenville

The word of Hugh McInnis is very apparent. We have the cleanest streets and alleys of any town in the state. Hurrah for Hugh and the Sanitary Department as a whole.

It is reported that nine men were burned to death when an oil gusher was brought in at Mexia, Texas, yesterday.

Wanted!

1000 PEOPLE TO BE PRESENT AT SHOR DRUGS STORE, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY TO ATTEND THE GREAT MATINEE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE ON THESE DAYS. BE ON HAND AND BE A WITNESS TO THE CURING OF COMMERCIAL COLIC.

SECOND ANNUAL JUBILEE MINSTREL

Knights Of Pythias Crescent Lodge 47
Strand Theatre One Day Only—Friday May 11th, 1923
Personal direction J. Frank Garry, of Zirkel & Sank Bros., of Columbus, Ohio. Beautiful Satin Wardrobe and our challenge first part creation

"THE GOLDEN GROTTO"
Big Noon Day Parade

MATINEE—Orchestra 75c - Balcony 50c
NIGHT—Orchestra \$1.50 - Balcony \$1.00

G. C. M. A. VS. H. H. S. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY KAMPER PARK

Illustration 3. Front Page of The Daily Squibs
10 May 1923 (Vol. 1, No. 187)

FREE Compliments of your
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Entertainment • Movies • Shopping • Classified News

HUB CITY ADVERTISER

Published Every Thursday by Advertiser Publishing Company, Inc.
2115 West 4th St., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401 — Phone 582-7433

VOL. 1, NO. 35

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

MAY 16, 1974

relax and enjoy
"get-away" fun
close to home

You may not be country-bound as often as you'd like this energy-conscious summer, but you can plan exciting local "get-aways" that may be just as enjoyable. Some families, already anticipating summer gas shortages, are planning to head to nearby parks and beaches. Others are turning their own backyards into recreational centers to summer fun. To enhance their pleasure, outdoor enthusiasts will be adding leisure time equipment, including swimming pools, lawn games and barbecues.

For fast and easy outdoor meal preparation, the gas barbecue is becoming a popular item, reports James S. Klein, vice president sales, Charmglow Products, the country's pioneer manufacturer of gas barbecues. When a gas grill is just turned on the gas allows the grill to pre-heat for a few minutes and you're ready to cook almost anything. And, because gas barbecues generally have built-in heat controls for exact temperature setting, there's no guessing at how hot the coals are — and no late supper hours because the dinner didn't get done as quickly as expected.

Food prepared on gas grill has the cooked — not — doors flavor associated with charcoal — but you'll have none of the soot and mess. (That outdoor barbecue taste actually comes from the smoke of natural meat



PARTY TIME! With the current gas shortage, neighborhood parties are becoming more and more common. This homemaker has invited a few across-the-fence friends for steaks and roast turkey prepared barbecue style around the pool. Convenience-minded, she's chosen a Chef's Choice gas barbecue for exact temperature setting and that cooked-outdoors taste.

juices dripping on hot briquets, not from any flavor the charcoal imparts.)

With gas grilling, there's no need for dangerous starter fluids and no messy charcoal clean-up afterwards. You cook with clean, heat-radiating ceramic briquets that last through hundreds of barbecue feasts. After cooking, leave the gas on for a few moments and whisk the cooking grids clean with a nylon brush. Food residues will fall into the briquets and burn up, leaving the grill ready for the next meal.

But you may be concerned about the use of gas for barbecuing during the energy crisis. According to Klein, "The gas

grill is regarded as an alternate means of cooking by the American Gas Association and others. If the homemaker is not cooking outdoors on the grill, she would probably be cooking indoors via gas or electricity. And, she might be using an air conditioner or range hood to keep the cooking area cool—an added drain on energy resources."

"When compared to charcoal grilling," Klein continued, "gas barbecuing is more economical to the consumer, costing only about five cents per meal."

Gas grills come in a wide range of styles to suit every need. Available are small, attaché — case portable travel barbecues like the Charmglow Perfect Host. And, for big family and group entertaining, there are large double grills like the Chef's Choice.

Grill installation for home use is an easy matter with the variety of stands and hookups available. For permanent or semi-permanent, one — location use, in — ground posts and circular stands are usually recommended. If the barbecue will be on the move, from the garage to other areas in the yard, a two — or four — wheel cart stand is suggested. The gas fuel may be supplied either through LP gas tank or direct gas line hookup.

TV News PROGRAMS — SPORTS

WDAM-TV, Channel 7—WTOK-TV, Channel 11
WKRG-TV, Channel 5—WLOX-TV, Channel 13
WLBT-TV, Channel 3 — WJTV, Channel 12
Programs for Saturday through Friday

Saturday, May 18

MORNING	
5:30 (12) Sunrise Semester	(7) Humanities
6:00 (12) Green Acres	(12) Untamed World
(5) Wildlife	(12) Tarsan
6:25 (11) News & Weather	(5) You and Your Community
(3) Morning Prayer	1:30 (12) Good Ole Nashville Music
(12) Agriculture, U.S.A.	(8) Dixie Digest
(11) Sunrise Semester	(7) Untamed World
(5) Coast Extension	2:00 (12) Wrestling
(3) Across the Fence	(11) CBS Golf
(7) Three Stooges	(12) TV 12 Topics
7:00 (12) (11) Hair Bear Bunch	(7) Wrestling
(3) (7) Lidsville	(12) Golf Championship
(5) Hair Bear Bunch/In the News	2:30 (12) Alan King Tennis
(12) Bugs Bunny	3:00 (12) CBS Golf Champ.
7:25 (11) (12) In the News	(8) (11) Colonial Open
7:50 (12) (11) Sabrina, the Witch	(7) Major League Baseball
(7) (3) Adams Family	4:00 (12) Wide World Sports
(5) Sabrina Teenage Witch/In the News	(3) (11) Triple Crown
(12) Yogi's Gang	(12) CBS Golf of Man
7:55 (12) (11) In the News	(3) Puma
8:00 (12) (11) Scooby Doo	4:30 (12) TBA
(5) Scooby Doo/In news	(3) Bobby Goldboro Show
(7) (5) Emergency Plus Four	5:00 (3) Nashville Music
(12) Super Friends	(11) Branded
8:30 (7) (3) Inch High	(3) Saturday Report
8:55 (12) (11) In the News	(12) Porter Wagoner
9:00 (12) (11) (3) My Favorite Martian	5:30 (12) (11) (5) CBS News
(7) (2) Bismund	(12) Reasoner Report
(12) Lassie's Rescue Rangers	(7) (3) NBC News
9:25 (12) (11) In the News	
9:30 (12) (5) (11) Jeannie	
(12) Jeannie/In the News	
(7) (3) Pink Panther	
9:55 (12) (11) In the News	
10:00 (12) (11) Jeannie	
(5) In the News	
10:00 (12) (11) Speed Buggy	
(12) Brady Kids	
(7) (3) Star Trek	
(5) Speed Buggy/In the News	
10:25 (11) (12) In the News	
10:30 (12) (11) (5) Josie and Pussycats	
(5) In the News	
(12) Mission Magic	
(7) (3) Butch Cassidy	
10:55 (12) (11) In the News	
11:00 (5) In the News	
(7) (3) Jeannie	
(5) (11) (12) Pebbles and Bamm Bamm	
11:25 (12) (11) In the News	
11:30 (7) Go	
(5) (11) (12) Fat Albert	
(5) In the News	
(3) 94 Karol Black Gold	
11:55 (11) (12) In the News	
AFTERNOON	
12:00 (5) (11) (12) Children's Film Festival	
(12) American Bandstand	
(7) Spotlight on Music	
(3) WLBT News and Weather	
12:15 (7) Way of Life	
(3) Mississippi Window	
12:30 (7) Flying Nun	
(3) Inquiry	
1:00 (11) Route 66	
(3) Major League Baseball	

WANT AD INFORMATION

16 WORDS — \$1.00
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DIAL-A-PRAYER
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To buy or sell, call:
544-1275
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In Bessway of University Mall

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Hours: 8-5:30 — Mon.-Sat.

MAC'S SHOE REPAIRS

Illustration 4. Front Page of Hub City Advertiser
16 May 1974 (Vol. 1, No. 35)

Serving Hattiesburg and South Mississippi

THE HUB CITY COMMUNITY NEWS

**FREE
TAKE ONE**

Vol. II, No. 47

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

November 21-29, 1984

NEWS BRIEFS

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Salvation Army of Hattiesburg will have a free Thanksgiving dinner from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Thanksgiving Day at the organization's office at 306 Walnut Street, free of charge to anyone who attends.

Christmas Baskets

The Salvation Army will begin taking applications for Christmas Baskets Monday, December 3 through Friday, December 7—ONLY—from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day. Applicants should have some form of positive identification in addition to a social security card. Applications will be taken at the office located at 306 Walnut Street.

Energy Assistance Program

The Pearl River Valley Opportunity (PRVO) agency will be accepting applications for energy assistance beginning the week of December 3, according to PRVO Director, Pearlina London. Completed applications will be accepted by appointment only, London said, which may be done either in person or by phone. The PRVO office is located at 400 Forrest Street in the Carpenter's Building. Phone number is 344-1394.

Money For Palmers Still Under Consideration

The decision to award the Palmers Crossing community matching grant monies to renovate their water system is still pending, according to Beat 4 Supervisor James Boykins. "Things are basically the same. I talked with Scott Wheeler, the attorney for the project, Tuesday morning and he said that no decision had been made."

38th Avenue to be Widened

The Hattiesburg Board of Mayor and Commissioners today authorized the advertisement for bids for a major street improvement project on North 38th Avenue.

After more than two years of work the city has secured enough urban aid systems money to complete the project. The federal funds have come in the form of loans from other Mississippi cities.

The project calls for 38th to be widened and overlaid from Hardy Street north to West 4th Street. Those plans have been approved by the Mississippi State Highway Department, which administers the federal funds. The 38th Avenue project is one of the last remaining street projects approved by Hattiesburg voters in the "Quality of Life" bond issue, passed in late 1981. Twenty percent of the project will be paid for with local bond money, the remaining eighty percent with federal funding.

The North 38th Avenue project will include widening the street to three lanes for the entire project length, placing storm drainage underground, constructing curb and gutter, overlaying, and striping. Construction could begin before the first of the year and is expected to take about 6 to 7 months to complete.

editorial

THANKS

The Hub City Community News gives thanks to God for our continued existence through the support of you, our readers and advertisers.

As many of you know, our pace has been slow but somehow we're managing to stay the course. We say "somehow" but we know how: through God, our Father, who works through you, His children who in turn support us. So taking this time and space, we say THANKS: CARRIES LUNCHEONETTE, COHEN'S DRUG COMPANY, THE FEDERATION TOWERS, CANDLE LITE INN, M.L.'S PLACE, LYNN'S KITCHEN, THE HI-HAT CLUB, GONNA'S PAD, FAIRVIEW PHARMACY, OUTREACH AGENCY, G.E. CABLE, FINE BROS. MATISON, BUXTON CURTIS MATHIS, THE FURNITURE MARKET and all the other advertisers who've voluntarily given their business to a small, new paper, reaching a mere segment of the community. Thanks and may God bless you with the essence of His Love.

Eddie Taylor, Publisher
and Joyce Jones, Editor

Honors Day Program At Alcorn

Approximately three hundred and seventy-five students, including eighteen Presidential Scholars, were honored for having made the Honor Roll for the 1984 Spring Semester during Alcorn State University's Tenth Biannual Honors Day Program. The program was held on November 14 at 10 a.m. in the Campus Union Ballroom. The theme for the program was "Education at the Crossroads: the Honors Challenge."

To be on the Dean's List a student must register for at least twelve semester hours of academic credit to maintain at least a "B" grade point average. To be named a Presidential Scholar, a student must register for at least twelve semester hours of academic credit and maintain a straight "A" grade point average.

Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander, internationally known author, lecturer, and educator, was the guest speaker. In her keynote speech Dr. Walker maintained that education is the gateway to economic opportunity. "A good education can lead one not only to economic freedom but to the freedom of the mind as well," said Dr. Walker. She called each student on the Honor Roll at Alcorn a scholar, while defining functionally the word "scholar," Alexander stated, "When the student seeks to know and understand, when the student discovers a love of learning, a thirst for knowledge, a desire to understand and fully comprehend—then and only then the student becomes a scholar."

She also reminded the faculty of their sacred task of motivating the students. "Teachers should inspire their students to become creative so that they can think independently and in an organized fashion," stated Dr. Walker. Finally, Dr. Walker reiterated the need for a quality education among college students.

Mrs. Will Ella Gerald, former assistant professor of education at Alcorn, was presented a bouquet from the education department; and Dr. Margaret Walker was presented a bouquet by the graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at Alcorn.

Wayne Baldwin, a senior music major from Chicago, Illinois, was awarded a Presser Scholarship for 1984-85 in the amount of \$1,000. He

was awarded the scholarship because of his outstanding academic achievements, not only in music but in other subjects as well.

The Presser Scholarship, made possible by the Presser Foundation of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, is awarded to a music major at the end of the student's junior year. The foundation is dedicated to the improvement of music and music education.

Approximately eight hundred students attended the honors program.

Computer Orientation Class

A computer orientation class has been scheduled for Saturday, November 24, 1984 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hattiesburg Public Library on Main Street. To sign up for this or future classes, come by the Library at 723 Main Street or call 582-4461.

USM

To Hold Pre-Registration

Pre-registration for the spring semester at the University of Southern Mississippi will be held Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 and 6.

Pre-registration allows students to select courses and time schedules prior to regular registration. The entire registration process will be completed with the exception of housing assignments, financial assessments and payment of fees, which will be done on the first day of regular registration. Advisors will be available for counseling, and evaluation of credits will be completed for transfer students.

New freshmen and transfer students interested in pre-registering at USM should make an appointment by calling (601) 266-5646 or toll free in Mississippi 1-800-222-1604.

East Jerusalem Will Hold Thanksgiving Service- Thanksgiving services will be held Thanksgiving Day at 8 a.m. at East Jerusalem. The Reverend Joseph Dorsett will bring the message. The public is invited. The Reverend Woodrow Armstrong is pastor.

Illustration 5. Front Page of Hub City Community News
21-29 November 1984 (Vol. II, No. 47)

HUB-CITY 582-7432 SHOPPER-ADVERTISER

FREE
TAKE ONE

 DISTRIBUTED FREE EVERY
WEEK, EACH ISSUE READ
BY OVER 31,000 BUYERS IN
FORREST, LAMAR AND
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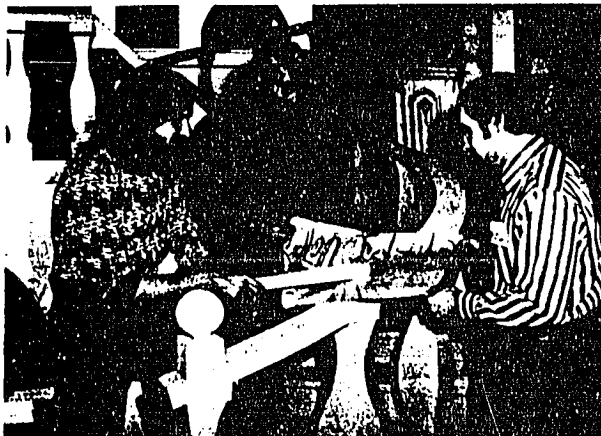
Published Every Thursday by Advertiser Publishing Company, Inc., 2415 W. 4th St., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401

VOL. I, NO 25,

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

MARCH 7, 1974

USM OPERA IS SCHEDULED FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION



SETS FOR TELEvised VERSION—Hiram Bullock, scenic designer at ETV; Charles Naton, construction supervisor at ETV, and Ed Van Cleef, production manager, look over the lavish sets for the televised version of the University of Southern Mississippi Opera Theatre production of Die Fledermaus to be aired this spring, the time to be announced.



AN EVENING OF DANCE—Deborah Southall of Panama City and Kathy Wade of Hattiesburg will be featured in An Evening of Dance to be presented by the University of Southern Mississippi Department of Theatre Arts at 8 p.m., March 22 and 23 in the Performing Arts Center. To be choreographed by students and dance faculty members, the concert will range from traditional ballet to the avant-garde.

TV News

PROGRAMS—SPORTS

WDAM-TV, Channel 7—WTOK-TV, Channel 11
WKRG-TV, Channel 5—WLOX-TV, Channel 13
WLBT-TV, Channel 3 — WJTV, Channel 12

Programs for Saturday through Friday

Saturday, March 9

MORNING

5:30 (12) Sunrise Semester
6:00 (12) Green Acres
(5) Wildlife
6:25 (11) News & Weather
(3) Morning Prayer
6:30 (7) (12) Mulligan Giew
(11) Sunrise Semester
(5) Coast Extension
(3) Across the Fence
7:00 (12) (5) (11) Hair Bear
Bunch
(3) (7) Lidville
(15) Bugs Bunny
7:25 (5) (11) (12) In the News
7:30 (12) (5) (11) Sabrina,
the Witch
(7) (12) Adams Family
(13) Yogi's Gang
7:50 (5) (12) (11) In the News
8:00 (12) (11) (5) Scooby
Doo
(7) (12) Emergency
(13) Super Friends
8:30 (7) (3) Inch High
8:58 (5) (12) (11) In the News
9:00 (12) (11) (5) My
Favorite Martian
(7) (3) Sigmund
(13) Lassie's Rescue
Rangers
9:28 (5) (12) (11) In the News
9:30 (12) (5) (11) Jeannie
(13) Ghost Chasers
(7) (12) Pink Panther
9:58 (5) (12) (11) In the News
10:00 (12) (11) (5) Speed
Buggy
(13) Brady Kids
(7) (12) Star Trek
10:28 (5) (11) (12) In the News
10:30 (12) (11) (5) Josie and
Pussycats
(13) Mission Magic
(7) (3) Bulch Cassidy
10:58 (5) (12) (11) In the News
11:00 (13) Movie
(12) (11) (5) Pebbles
and Bamm Bamm
11:28 (5) (12) (11) In the News
11:30 (11) (12) (5) Fat Albert
(7) Go
(3) 24-K Black Gold
11:58 (5) (12) (11) In the News
AFTERNOON
12:17 (5) (11) (12) Children's
Film Festival
(13) American
Bandstand
(7) Spotlight on Music
(3) News & Weather
12:15 (7) Way of Life
12:30 (7) Limits of Man
(9) Inquiry

1:00 (12) Tazman
(11) Hazel
(3) Your Community
(12) Untamed World
(7) NCAA Basketball
(3) Basketball Double-
header
1:30 (5) Dixie Digest
(11) Affirmation
(12) Golf Tournament
2:00 (12) Wrestling
(11) Movie
(5) Happy Holiday
(Continued on Page 3)

NEW!—NEW! GUARANTEED
Classifieds. Place your ad and
we'll run it until your item is
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first insertion. All subsequent
insertions free. Individuals on-
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cabinets and bookshelves, bay
window in living-dining, built-
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FOR ANY PURCHASE

Expires Mar. 7, 1974

Illustration 6. Front Page, Hub-City Shopper-Advertiser
7 March 1974 (Vol. I, No. 25)



VOL. II, No. 1

PETAL-HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

SEPTEMBER 19, 1974

NEWS BRIEFS AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

In and Around Hattiesburg

Greason Directs Jackson USM Branch—

Dr. Beverly D. Greason, director of music at Main Street United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg and former director of the Division of Music at the University of Southern Mississippi, is the new director of USM in Jackson. The appointment was announced by Dr. Homer Pound, dean of the USM Division of Extension and Public Service. Dr. Greason has had extensive experience in education. He was chairman of the music department at Cumberland River College from 1954 to 1956, instructor in general music and director of college ensembles at Allegany (Md.) High School from 1954-57, and instructor at USM from 1957-73. A native of New York and Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N. J., where he received the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees, he completed the Ph.D. with a major in music education and a minor in educational administration from USM in 1974.

UGF Advances Gifts Drive Opens—

The United Drive Fund (UGF) campaign which is aimed at raising money for the needy and underprivileged is being launched in Hattiesburg. The drive is being led by Bob Duncan, chairman of the UGF, and is being supported by the Hattiesburg Chapter of the UGF. The drive is being held in conjunction with the Hattiesburg Chapter of the UGF. The drive is being held in conjunction with the Hattiesburg Chapter of the UGF. The drive is being held in conjunction with the Hattiesburg Chapter of the UGF.

Better Distribution of Wealth, Power—

Speaking about the new legislation, Fred Harris, former U.S. Senator from Oklahoma, will be featured at 7 p.m. Thursday in Hattiesburg at the University of Southern Mississippi. The lecture will be given in the public hall at the University of Southern Mississippi. The lecture will be given in the public hall at the University of Southern Mississippi. The lecture will be given in the public hall at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Painting, Drawing Exhibition Set—

The Department of Art in the University of Southern Mississippi will present a painting and drawing exhibition through October 19 in room 104 and 105 of the Fine Arts Building. The exhibition is a diversified group of work by USM students. The exhibition is a diversified group of work by USM students. The exhibition is a diversified group of work by USM students.

City and Superiors Renouncing Streets—

The City of Hattiesburg and the Forrest County Board of Supervisors will be involved in a large scale direct renouncing presentment in three different areas of the city, according to City Commissioner C. D. Williams. The presentment is being held in three different areas of the city. The presentment is being held in three different areas of the city. The presentment is being held in three different areas of the city.

Two Qualify For School Board Posts—

The Forrest County Board of Education has appointed Pruitt Walker to the local board of trustees at Hattiesburg. The board of trustees is being appointed by the Forrest County Board of Education. The board of trustees is being appointed by the Forrest County Board of Education. The board of trustees is being appointed by the Forrest County Board of Education.

Chamber Nominates Directors—

The Board Nominating Committee of the Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce has proposed the following members as nominees to the Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1975. The nominees are: W. A. Hattiesburg, Richard W. Hattiesburg, Thomas Roberts, G. L. Hattiesburg, John M. Hattiesburg, Dr. Brooks H. Hattiesburg, and Gordon Hattiesburg. The nominees are: W. A. Hattiesburg, Richard W. Hattiesburg, Thomas Roberts, G. L. Hattiesburg, John M. Hattiesburg, Dr. Brooks H. Hattiesburg, and Gordon Hattiesburg.

Two Promoted By 1st Mississippi National—

Paul W. McMullan, chairman of the board and president of First Mississippi National Bank, announced the promotion of Kim Williams to senior vice president and Leigh Buller to vice president. The promotions were announced at the monthly meeting of the board of directors. The promotions were announced at the monthly meeting of the board of directors. The promotions were announced at the monthly meeting of the board of directors.

Park and Zoo Are Unaffected—

Kemper Park and the small animal zoo are not affected by the current federal tax cut. The Department of the Interior has announced that the park and zoo are not affected by the current federal tax cut. The Department of the Interior has announced that the park and zoo are not affected by the current federal tax cut.



Mayor Bud Gerrard signs the proclamation designating Tuesday, September 24, 1974, as "Founders' Day." On that day the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society will present a plaque in memory of Captain William Harris (Harris), founder of Hattiesburg. The ceremony will start at 2:00 p.m. on the lawn of the "Old Postoffice" or former "Federal Building." The public is cordially invited. Persons who wish to attend should contact Mrs. A. J. Tamm, vice president of the Historical Society, Mrs. Dudley Conner, director.

Newcomers Are Invited To Join— Season Memberships Available To Hattiesburg Concert Association

Newcomers to Hattiesburg may obtain season membership in the Hattiesburg Concert Association by September 22. The association is a non-profit organization that promotes the arts in Hattiesburg. The association is a non-profit organization that promotes the arts in Hattiesburg. The association is a non-profit organization that promotes the arts in Hattiesburg.

The world renowned Hungarian pianist, László Kocsis, will be performing at the Hattiesburg Concert Association. The performance is scheduled for September 22. The performance is scheduled for September 22. The performance is scheduled for September 22.

PILL IS 20 YEARS OLD. IS IT SAFE? SCIENCE ISN'T SURE

It was a time when people began talking about population control and the need for birth control. The Pill was a revolutionary new way to control fertility. The Pill was a revolutionary new way to control fertility. The Pill was a revolutionary new way to control fertility.

Stamp Overhaul Is Urged By Reagan

Gov. Ronald Reagan, proposing a "stamp overhaul" for national postage stamps, has called for a massive overhaul of the "stamp" federal stamp program for the year. The overhaul is being proposed by the Reagan administration. The overhaul is being proposed by the Reagan administration. The overhaul is being proposed by the Reagan administration.

Clean Lampshades, Bulbs Save Energy

Clean bulbs, lamps and lampshades save energy. The U.S. Department of Energy has announced that clean bulbs, lamps and lampshades save energy. The U.S. Department of Energy has announced that clean bulbs, lamps and lampshades save energy. The U.S. Department of Energy has announced that clean bulbs, lamps and lampshades save energy.

HOW ABOUT THAT

The language of the ancient African kingdom of Meroe which flourished between 600 B.C. and A.D. 400, was written in hieroglyphs that showed a strong similarity to the Egyptian.

SAVE ONE

Each time you start your car, you are saving one life. The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced that each time you start your car, you are saving one life. The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced that each time you start your car, you are saving one life.

THE POWER OF THE PILL

The power of the Pill is a revolutionary new way to control fertility. The Pill is a revolutionary new way to control fertility. The Pill is a revolutionary new way to control fertility. The Pill is a revolutionary new way to control fertility. The Pill is a revolutionary new way to control fertility.

Show Set For Next Thursday— Annual Membership Party Will Feature Outstanding Artists

An outstanding trio of artists will be featured at the Annual Membership Party of the Hattiesburg Area Council from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, September 19, at First Mississippi National Bank. The artists are: Mrs. L. E. Hattiesburg, Mrs. Webb Hattiesburg, and Mrs. Lawrence McDuff.

McClinton Will Sing "Klansman"

COUNTRY AND Western singer O. B. McClinton, who records for Enterprise Records, a subsidiary of RCA Records Co., will sing the musical number, "The Klansman," at the Hattiesburg Area Council's Annual Membership Party. The performance is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, at First Mississippi National Bank.

Maltese Falcon Vanishes Again

The FBI has been unable to find it. The Maltese Falcon, a famous painting by the artist, has disappeared again. The FBI has been unable to find it. The Maltese Falcon, a famous painting by the artist, has disappeared again. The FBI has been unable to find it.

WIRETAPS OPPOSED

A Louisiana poll reports that Americans are 66 to 77 percent against letting the government wiretap citizens suspected of crimes without a court order. The poll was conducted by the Louisiana State Poll. The poll was conducted by the Louisiana State Poll. The poll was conducted by the Louisiana State Poll.

Free Hospital For Women in Hattiesburg

Rock, like the British-educated Chang, was a more interested in fertility than contraception. The Hattiesburg Area Council has announced that it will provide a free hospital for women in Hattiesburg. The hospital is being built by the Hattiesburg Area Council. The hospital is being built by the Hattiesburg Area Council.

One of Five Formerly Abolished Women Became Pregnant

One of five formerly abolished women became pregnant using the drug. The Hattiesburg Area Council has announced that one of five formerly abolished women became pregnant using the drug. The Hattiesburg Area Council has announced that one of five formerly abolished women became pregnant using the drug. The Hattiesburg Area Council has announced that one of five formerly abolished women became pregnant using the drug.

Illustration 7. Front Page of Times Advertiser
19 September 1974 (Vol. II, No. 1)

100 useful things you can do with the newspaper



- 1 Cover your head when it rains
- 2 Line your bird cage
- 3 Make a fireman's hat
- 4 Shade the sun from your eyes
- 5 Mulch for your garden
- 6 To pottle train house pets

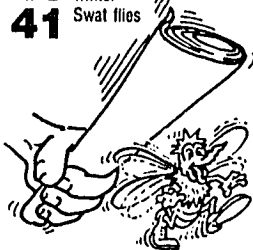


- 7 Wrap fish and other goop in it
- 8 Wrapping for freezing meat
- 9 Use to pack with when moving
- 10 Roll into fireplace logs
- 11 Blanket for bench sleeping
- 12 Roll up to make telescope
- 13 Recycle for cash
- 14 Clean car windows
- 15 Make spit balls
- 16 Temporary curtains for your home
- 17 Put on floor when painting
- 18 Use for wrapping gifts
- 19 Emergency toilet paper
- 20 Use as insulation
- 21 Use letters for writing ransom notes
- 22 Rustling sound effect for home movies
- 23 Start a fire with it



- 24 Make into house slippers
- 25 Roll up to make a megaphone
- 26 Stand on pile to appear tall
- 27 Make a collage

- 28 Use as a temporary cast
- 29 Use as shoehorn
- 30 Make a fan
- 31 Empty vacuum cleaner on it
- 32 Fix hole in shoe
- 33 Keep flowers fresh until you get vase
- 34 Put on floor when you shell pecans
- 35 Spank your dog
- 36 Make confetti
- 37 Scoop up dead bugs
- 38 Fingerprint on it
- 39 Stuff in wet boots to help them dry
- 40 Insulate water pipes in winter
- 41 Swat flies



- 42 Use rolled up to beat rug
- 43 To line the trash can
- 44 Make a kite
- 45 Paper your friend's yard
- 46 Clean your feet on
- 47 Use as funnel for filling gas tank
- 48 Make patterns for sewing

- 49 A must for silly-putty users
- 50 Keep kitchen clean when transferring potted plants
- 51 Use for ironing ties
- 52 Make printer's hat

- 53 Stuff in shirt to make muscles
- 54 Feed a goat



- 55 Absorb things you spill
- 56 Make paper dolls
- 57 To hide in at dinner table
- 58 For table cloth at annual picnic
- 59 A source for rubber bands
- 60 Collect as a hobby
- 61 Make yourself look important by carrying it
- 62 Use as door-stop
- 63 Disposable plate when eating watermelon
- 64 Use in magic tricks
- 65 Tearing strips for birthday party streamers
- 66 Save the seat next to you
- 67 Make a Christmas wreath
- 68 Take out frustration by tearing and throwing
- 69 To collect hair when cutting
- 70 Blot your lipstick
- 71 Pack the ice cream freezer
- 72 Test out your new paperweight
- 73 Practice stapling

- 74 Make people think you're not at home
- 75 Stuff pillows
- 76 Use under car when you have oil leak
- 77 Backing for wax transfers
- 78 Make a dummy for Halloween
- 79 Mask your car for painting
- 80 Use as a coaster for cold drinks
- 81 Use as a dart board
- 82 Practice for big-league basketball

- 83 Fold up a page and make your wallet look impressive
- 84 Make your hat fit better
- 85 A wrapper for used chewing gum
- 86 Collect the yellow from the sun
- 87 Good for breaking windows, screen doors, etc.
- 88 Exercise your grip
- 89 Teach dog to fetch
- 90 Backing for magic marker art projects
- 91 Sit on it at raining football games
- 92 A place mat for office coffee pot
- 93 Use as dust pan
- 94 Give subscription as a gift
- 95 Temporary replacement for broken window
- 96 Filler for Santa Claus belly
- 97 Paper stencils
- 98 Use as worm food



- 99 Read it: national and local news, sports, editorials, human interest, television listings, wedding announcements, births, deaths, are all available in the newspaper. In Mississippi, 75% of the adult population reads one of the state's 115 newspapers.

- 100 Advertise in it: new cars, grand openings, fashions, furniture, food, toys — you name it. If you want to sell something, the newspaper can help. Newspapers have been and continue to be the number one advertising medium in the United States. For more information on advertising in one or all of Mississippi's newspapers, contact your local newspaper or the business affiliate of the Mississippi Press Association, Mississippi Press Services, 2720 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39216, 601-981-3060.

Illustration 8. "100 Useful Things You Can Do with the Newspaper"
Mississippi Press Association, 1984

having overlooked some early newspapers is possible.

Hattiesburg's First Newspaper--Herald or Citizen?

Hattiesburg officially became incorporated as a town in 1884 with 250 inhabitants. According to Robertson:

Newspapers are among the first things that are established in a town and no wonder, for they are essential to the good of any community. So it was not long before Hattiesburg had a paper. It was called the Hattiesburg Herald. It had the honor of printing the first ordinances of the town.⁴

At the earliest recorded meeting of the mayor and aldermen, the board ordered that the town ordinances be published in the Hattiesburg Herald, which agreed to charge only half the legal publishing rate.⁵ Some of these first ordinances concerned such things as the discharging of firearms, indecent exposure and drunkenness, authorizing the marshal to summon help and ordering that privy filth be taken out of town or buried two feet deep. On 22 June 1885 board minutes show that the Hattiesburg Herald Publishing Company was allowed \$7.50 for publishing proceedings of the mayor and board of aldermen.⁶

Until 1908 Hattiesburg was part of Perry County. The Hattiesburg Herald was used as early as 1884 by the Perry County Board of Supervisors--to advertise for sealed bids to build a bridge across Tallahala Creek.⁷ Furthermore, on 8 December 1884, this board ordered that proceedings of its meetings be

published in the Herald for a year for eighty dollars, payable quarterly in advance.⁸

Nevertheless, the Herald may not have been the first Hattiesburg newspaper. According to R. H. Henry, who for fifty years was editor and owner of the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, the Rev. H. J. Harris "owned and edited the American Citizen of Hattiesburg, the first paper printed there,"⁹ in the 1880s. A copy of the 27 July 1894 issue of the American Citizen shows it to be the official journal of Hattiesburg and of Perry County.¹⁰ It is a six-column broadsheet "devoted to the interests of Southeast Mississippi," published by Harris and Harris, and designated Volume 2, which would indicate its probable founding in 1893. The only other extant copy is Vol. 8, No. 20, dated 15 February 1900, with W. F. Palmer as editor and publisher, and still the official journal of Perry County.¹¹

When the Mississippi Press Association convened in Hattiesburg in May 1919, the president was Charles N. Harris, Jr., editor of the Canton Herald. An article by Ray Valentine in the Hattiesburg American states, "Mr. Harris' father is a guest of the convention here with his son. The president's grandfather owned and published the first newspaper put in circulation in this city. It was known as the American Citizen."¹²

When a business becomes incorporated, state law requires that notice of this incorporation be published

in a local newspaper.¹³ The proof-of-publication notice states that on a given date, a certain newspaper published a certain incorporation announcement. The notice sometimes gives volume and number and is signed by a newspaper representative whose title is also given. Thus, it is possible to pinpoint the names and dates of newspapers and newspaper people at certain times.

For example, according to early public records,¹⁴ R. S. Hall (see Illustration 44-A) was the publisher of the American Citizen, a weekly, during October 1897, when he published Vol. 6, Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5. Since it is customary for volume numbers to represent years, indications are that the American Citizen may have been established in 1891, rather than "in the eighties," as Henry stated. It is also possible that when Hall became publisher sometime after Harris, he restarted volume numbering.

The earliest mention of the American Citizen in Perry County public records was February 1893.¹⁵

No known extant copy of the Hattiesburg Herald has survived. The meager evidence that has surfaced remains inconclusive as to which came first--the Herald or the Citizen. Regardless of this controversy, at least one paper with extant copies did exist prior to the Citizen--the Democrat.

Extant Early Papers

Printers were assured of lucrative printing opportunities as new areas of the country opened up to development. Boorstin found, "The thriving business of printing legal notices was itself a byproduct of rapid settlement and expansion. Not only did it make newspapers profitable, in many places the fees for legal notices alone made a country newspaper possible."¹⁶

Minutes of the 10 May 1886 town meeting show that J. M. Williamson was also in the printing business, having been employed by the board to print 1,000 assessment blanks.¹⁷ On 15 January 1887, H. J. Harris submitted a proposal for public printing.¹⁸ No action was taken until the next bimonthly meeting of the board. On 14 March 1887, the proposals of H. J. Harris and J. M. Williamson for the town printing were considered and it was ordered that Williamson's Hattiesburg Democrat be declared the official journal for the town.¹⁹ One week prior to this, on 7 March 1887, the Perry County Board of Supervisors ordered the Hattiesburg Democrat declared the official journal of the county.²⁰ On 9 January 1888, Williamson's Democrat was accepted for another year as the official organ for Hattiesburg.²¹

Extant early newspapers include single copies of not only the Democrat (1894) but also the Gazette

(1896), Progress (1897 and 1908), Weekly Citizen (1906), Tribune (1914), Hub Breeze (1932) and Independent (1935). Short runs are also available of the Progress (1902-03), Saturday Evening Eye (1904-05) and Forrest County News (1936-37). In a more contemporary vein, a few single extant copies of the black South Mississippi Weekly (1982) and the complete run of Persons (1977-81) are available.²²

In layout and design the earliest papers were similar. They were broadsheets in a vertical makeup, using one-column label headlines and few illustrations for an overall gray page. Variety was gained through frequently changing type faces and families, especially in advertisements and story headlines which were composed of several crossline decks.

Democrat

The only extant copy of the Democrat found is Vol. 9, No. 1, Thursday, 4 January 1894, the oldest extant Hattiesburg newspaper (see Illustration 9). Consisting of eight pages of five columns by about twenty inches, the Democrat had been the official organ of Perry County since 1886 and had second-class mailing privileges. Mary Oliphant was editor and proprietor.²³

Subscriptions were one dollar a year in advance, and subscribers were urged to renew promptly or the Democrat would be discontinued promptly. In-house ads solicit for job work, stating that the Democrat is the

THE DEMOCRAT.

Vol 9

Hattiesburg, Perry County, Miss., January 4, 1894.

No. 1.

EATON & COLLINS

General Merchandise,

Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR ALL KINDS OF COUNTRY PRODUCE.

MILLINERY DEPARTMENT

— IS STILL IN CHARGE OF MISS MAGGIE McNAIR. —

Latest styles hats, Trimmings and all first class Millinery Goods at lowest prices. Country orders solicited.

JOS. BAUM & SON,

ARE THE ORIGINATORS

OF LOW PRICES IN HATTIESBURG,

SEE THE SIGN,

BAUM'S CHEAP CASH STORE.

THEY SELL GOODS AT WHAT

Smaller Merchants

PAY FOR THEM.

Illustration 9. Front Page of The Democrat
4 January 1894 (Vol. 9, No. 1)

oldest newspaper on the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad and has the largest circulation.

Page 1 of the Democrat is different from that of the other early newspapers in that it is devoted exclusively to advertising--two half-page horizontal advertisements--for Eaton & Collins General Merchandise and Jos. Baum & Son cheap goods. Less than half of this issue is advertising, consisting of patent medicine remedies, business classifieds and a few legal ads. Two-line name-and-occupation ads in the business directory cost forty cents a month. Types of stories include news, religious sermons, serialized fiction and poetry, much of which is attributed to other newspapers such as the New York Herald, New York Times, Detroit Free Press, London News, among others. Birth announcements are listed under the label head, "Baby Chimes." The perennial problem of space limitations was mentioned when the full text of the governor's message to the United States Congress could not be published. Another concerned legal advertising:

The cry of the newspapers all over the state is that the present session of the legislature will make a law compelling the county printing to be published in the newspapers. It would be an act of justice to the people and newspapers alike for this to be done.²⁴

Another item gives a glimpse of the editor and her exchange policy. Upon receiving a copy of Clemens and Ziebach's DeKalb (Mississippi) Press, she wrote of placing it on her exchange list, that it was filled with

newsy and interesting matter, and that she hoped it had come to stay in Kemper County, her "native heath." Where perhaps lacking in design, by modern standards, variety and humor in content enlivened the paper. Outstanding among early newspapermen for witty commentary was W. H. Seitzler of the Newton County Progress, which was relocated and became the Hattiesburg Progress in 1897. Since the issues did not survive, it can only be imagined what Seitzler must have written in his newspaper to provoke Mary Oliphant to respond in her newspaper that Seitzler:

. . . accuses us of being a little "sassy" and seems to think that on account of our being only a woman, we have no right whatever to be so. That is a privilege to be enjoyed exclusively by the opposite, or we should have said, superior sex, it seems, and while it is very becoming and appropriate for the editor of the Progress, who is not the feminine gender, third person singular number, to blow off as much "chin music" as he pleases and poke fun at his exchanges, it is distinctly out of place for the editress of the Democrat to do so . . . the Progress . . . is never stale, and we have no reason to doubt that all its lies are original.²⁵

This type of exchange was customary. Newspaper office decorum in 1894 seemed similarly crude and lively, prompting the "editress" to publish a list of rules to be observed by "loafers" in a printing office:

If you find the editor in a private conversation, sit close by and take notes.

When you enter the office, if you find the chair at the editor's desk temporarily vacant, take possession of it until you get weary. If the editor has any writing to do, he will be glad to wait while you throw your muddy feet upon the desk, scatter the exchanges about, turn over the ink and read the "copy" for the next issue. The latter will especially delight him.

If it happens to be a paper where the first sheet

is printed several days before publication day, go into the office and read the first side as soon as an impression is made.

If you find any proof sheets be sure to read them.

If the printer is setting type, stand at his elbow and read his copy over his shoulders. This will put him in good humor with the whole world. He may knock you down, but it will be on account ebullition of spirits--he will love you.

If you borrow the exchanges promise to return them, but never do so under any circumstances. The astonishment it will give the editor will bring on apoplexy.

These rules are especially recommended to those who are not subscribers but just a good (for nothing) fellow about town on familiar terms with everybody.²⁶

A final observation of the Democrat concerns a column composed of short, witty items edited by the "devil," a printing shop apprentice, who claims great respect for everybody who reads his column and resolves "to maintain that proper dignity essential to holding down the important position of devil on an eight-page, illustrated family paper." Office records show that the Democrat was a member of the Mississippi Press Association at least in 1896.

Hattiesburg Gazette

"Hew to the Line, Let the Chips Fall Where They May," appears below the Hattiesburg Gazette flag (see Illustration 10). This slogan was taken from a speech by Roscoe Conkling (1829-1888) who was describing and nominating General Ulysses S. Grant for a third term at the National Republican Convention in Chicago, 5 June 1880. Most of Page 1 is devoted to advertising with the largest ad placed by O'Ferrall Bros. for yard goods and

THE HATTIESBURG GAZETTE

VOL. 1.

HATTIESBURG, MISS., THU

AY, MARCH 19, 1896.

NO. 19.

STILL - OPENING NEW - GOODS!
New Goods! New Prices!

Notice Still Another Reduction on Following Goods

Giamonda Silks, worth 150, reduced to 100.
 Dress Gingham, fine quality, 50.
 Figured Lawn, worth 8 1-20, 50.
 Washable Silk, for shirt waists, worth 40, 250.
 Flannel, worth double the price, 11 1-20.
 Organdy, worth 200, 100.
 Very fine quality White Lawn, worth 17 1-20, 10.
 Linen Batiste, latest, 250.
 All Calicoes, including Simpson's, etc., 50.
 Best Fruit of Loom Domestic, 51-2.
 7-6 Sheet, good, 5.
 Ladies' Straw Sailors, 10, 15 and 20.
 The Best Men's White Unlaundered Shirts, New York Mills Muslin 2100
 Linen, reinforced back and front, 50.

And a thousand more bargains too numerous to mention here.

Fine line gents neckwear, clothing, etc., just opened!

We sell the Thompson Glove Fitting Corsets. Are also agents for Wanamaker & Brown, Tailors.

Let Us Take Your Order.

The Tepper Brothers' Stock Still Going at Cost.

REMEMBER, IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO EXAMINE OUR GOODS AND GET OUR PRICES.

OVERALL BROS.

EASON

THE "CHEAP" CASH "GROCER."
 Corner Main and Pine Streets.
 Dealer in Staple and Fancy Groceries and Feed Stuff.
 HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI.

HARDWARE! - HARDWARE!

Quantity. When you want the Best Goods for least money, don't fail to call on us. We are STOVES, TINWARE, HEATERS, STEAMFITTINGS, BELTING, CUTTING and THREADING a Specialty. CROCKERY and GLASSWARE, GUNS, PISTOLS and in fact EVERYTHING kept in a First-Class Hardware House. Call and be satisfied.

TEMPLE, THE HARDWARE MAN.

D. G. McLAURIN,
 Attorney-at-Law and
 Solicitor in Chancery.
 ATCHAFALAYA, MISS.

J. J. STEVENS, M. D.,
 PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
 HATTIESBURG, MISS.
 Offers his professional services to the people of Hattiesburg and vicinity.



Right in a Cuckoo.
 Carry Cobb, the three-year-old son of W. L. Cobb, who lives about one mile from the town, was wandering away from home about 11 o'clock, last Friday, and was found by his father in the creek near the house, which was swollen by the recent rains. Alarm was given and a large party of friends responded and searched the creek all the afternoon, but found no trace of the missing child. Next morning they found parties and searched the swamp and woods. Their work was rewarded by finding the child about 8 p. m. in the afternoon. The child had wandered three miles from home and spent the night in a marsh. The joy of the parents was indescribable when the lost child was returned home unharmed.

Steamer Wrecked by an Explosion.
 The British steamer Maitai, which sailed from New Orleans, February 8, was destroyed by an explosion on March 7, at home, on the Congo river, about 25 miles from the mouth. Twenty-five of the Maitai's crew, two passengers and 16 native laborers were killed. Pieces of the crew escaped without serious injury. The Maitai had on board ten tons of gunpowder, a quantity which sufficiently accounts for the disastrous effects of the explosion. The music and the speech which were on board were heard. The victims of the accident were asleep at the time of the disaster. The officers of the steamer escaped.

An attempt was made to rob the First National Bank of Germantown, O., Wednesday morning. The robbers were instantly given to the business and made a much greater haul than the bank was worth. The town was aroused and the robbers fled. The door of the bank, weighing one hundred and thirty feet. The bank contained \$70,000 in cash and money, valuable bonds and other securities. The greenest money in town the robbers escaped being taken to prison. The wreck of the bank was a complete loss.

John Love's Revenge.
 Strathdale Butler, a prominent young man of Union Harbor, Mich., was accidentally shot by his own rifle on Friday for her pistol, which he was using to shoot the girl. He was forced to shoot the girl in the heart and she died upon her neck. The girl's name was Mary and she was a native of the town. The girl was shot in the heart and she died upon her neck. The girl was shot in the heart and she died upon her neck.

Charities Starved From Town.
 The anti-charity bill previously passed by the house passed the senate Friday at five o'clock. The bill prohibits both the manufacture and sale of medicine and cigarette paper except by persons for use outside the State.

THE PICAYUNE
 THE BEST NEWSPAPER IN THE SOUTH.
 TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE
 COVERS THE WORLD
 ITS MARKET REPORTS ARE UNEQUALLED.

THE HOUSE OF JEROME, Miss., was destroyed by that experienced journalist, John W. Jerome, who twice journeyed all quarters relating to the House of Jerome, who twice journeyed all quarters relating to the House of Jerome, who twice journeyed all quarters relating to the House of Jerome.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
 A Reader, One Year - \$12.00
 Six Months - \$6.00
 Three Months - \$3.00
 Single Copies - 10 Cts.
 Sent by Mail - 1.00
 BUREAU OF CO. Proprietors,
 New Orleans, La.

THE CHEAPEST STORE IN THE SOUTH

Jackson, Hudson & Company

-A COMPLETE AND WELL ASSORTED STOCK OF-

Staple and Fancy Groceries

AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

Also a Well Selected Line of the Latest Style of SHOES, At Bottom Prices.

Hardware of All Descriptions Carried in Stock.

Country Produce Bought and Sold. Quick Sales and Small Profits Our Motto. Free Delivery to Any Part of the City.

STORE ON MAIN STREET.

W. C. Bennett & Co.,

Real Estate and Collecting Agents.

OFFICE AT COURT HOUSE.

Prompt attention given to all orders.

McIntosh, Hyatt & Graham,

-Dealers in-

Beef, Pork, Veal,

Mutton and Sausage.

Most delivered to all parts of the city.

SEND US YOUR ORDERS.

E. J. EDWARDS,

Contractor & Builder.

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY.

Estimates made on Brick or Wood Buildings on short notice.

SAVES PERCENT.

\$55 MACHINE FOR \$25

HIGH ARM FAVORITE STOVE.

Machine that will save you money. It will save you money. It will save you money.

It will save you money. It will save you money. It will save you money.

It will save you money. It will save you money. It will save you money.

Illustration 10. Front Page of Hattiesburg Gazette 19 March 1896 (Vol. 1, No. 19)

clothing, including "ladies' straw sailors" and "the best men's white unlaundried shirts on earth."

The masthead appears on Page 2 showing Charles Hall as editor and proprietor, and the Rev. L. E. Hall as corresponding editor and soliciting agent, which means he sold advertising and subscriptions. It is not known if the Halls were related. This 1896 issue shows the Hattiesburg Gazette as official organ of Perry County, but this could not be verified due to early public records that are illegible because of poor handwriting and faded ink. The Gazette sold for one dollar per year, published every Thursday and was entered at the Hattiesburg post office as second-class mail.²⁷

Hall's editorials favor a state house to cost a million dollars or more or else no statehouse at all, construction of a harbor wharf on the Mississippi coast which mentions accessibility to the Far East through the "Nicaraguan canal" (ultimately dug in Panama), honest politicians, overcoming Democratic Party apathy.

Like the Democrat, the Gazette did not number its pages.²⁸ The Rev. L. E. Hall also appears in the church directory as pastor of the Baptist Church and in an ad as agent for the sale of pianos and organs. Much advertising was devoted to the "Professional Cards" of attorneys, dental surgeons and tonsorial artists (barbers), and to patent medicines such as Ayer's Sarsaparilla, Brown's Iron Bitters, Hood's

Sarsaparilla True Blood Purifier, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and Ripans Tabules for headache.

Progress

The earliest Hattiesburg newspaper that can be studied in depth because of the quantity of surviving issues is the Progress (see Illustrations 11 and 12).²⁹ This paper might serve also as an example of small-town journalism of the times.

The first editor, William Henry Seitzler, was well known enough to merit personal accounts in at least two books.³⁰ Before coming to Hattiesburg, Seitzler established the Free Press in Newton sometime between 1880 and 1887 and, after a year, sold it to J. F. Moore, an attorney.³¹

In 1894, he was editor of the Newton County or Hickory Progress, which had been commenced in 1890 by J. M. Gage. According to Brown, this paper was established by a cooperative association of merchants and, under Seitzler, was considered one of the best county newspapers in the state.³² Brown reported that the newspaper business in Newton County did not prove profitable because of lack of capital.

According to Seitzler, his decision to move the newspaper to Hattiesburg "was based upon a conviction that the progressive spirit of this growing little city would encourage and support another and strictly up-to-date newspaper."³³ He called it the Hattiesburg Progress, commencing with Vol. 7, No. 47

(which continued the numbering from Hickory), on 20 April 1897, publishing semiweekly on Tuesday and Friday.

Page 1 of Seitzler's first Hattiesburg issue was six columns entirely of news. In 1899 volume numbering restarted when the Progress became a daily. In 1903 he enlarged it to a seven-column folio and published his first photograph--a mug shot of Mabel Talliaferro, 16, an actress announced to play Lovey Mary in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." By mail or carrier, a subscription cost \$1.50 a year, 75 cents for six months, 40 cents for three months, 15 cents for one month, with strictly cash terms. He advertised his job office as well prepared to print catalogs, minutes and pamphlets, and sold old newspapers "good for wrapping paper, plastering up in houses . . . in hundred lot very cheap."34

Also in 1902 he was authorized to sell copies of the new Hattiesburg city directory from the newspaper office for one dollar each. Classified ads were five cents a line and display rates were "made known on application" to the office. The St. Louis World's Fair was causing publishers problems, prompting Seitzler to write on 4 November 1902 that the Progress would follow the lead of Arkansas and Tennessee papers and not publish any more advertising disguised as news without money consideration. He also refused to publish anonymous correspondence or letters to the editor. J. A. Myer, editor of the Perry County Item, advertised in the 4 June 1903 issue for a first-class job printer, perfectly

reliable and sober, to be paid \$13.50 per week.³⁵

Seitzler professed to be "as proud as a small boy with a new wagon " when he bought Hattiesburg's first typesetting machine. He ran a picture of it (see Illustration 13) on Page 1 and wrote on 9 October 1902 that the machine would not get drunk or go out on strike if last month's salary were not paid and would set type as fast as the human mind and fingers could work. A few days later he added, "It won't shoot craps and, like George Washington, it won't tell a lie."³⁶

J. D. McKie, editor of the Biloxi Review, came to see the Progress typesetting machine. He had just received his, the fourth of that make sold in the state within two months.³⁷

Setting type by hand was becoming an old-fashioned way of doing business. According to Richard Brady of Mergenthaler, Seitzler's typesetting machine appears to be an improved imitation of the Christian Sorensen typesetting machine and was invented by Josef Thorne, who sold about 2,000 of them between 1870 and 1900.³⁸ By 1908, according to Price, Seitzler's machine was considered inferior and replaced by a Mergenthaler linotype machine.³⁹ Meanwhile, with Seitzler's new equipment, two typesetters did the work of five, in addition to which he had six compositors. Payday was Wednesday and days off included the Fourth of July and

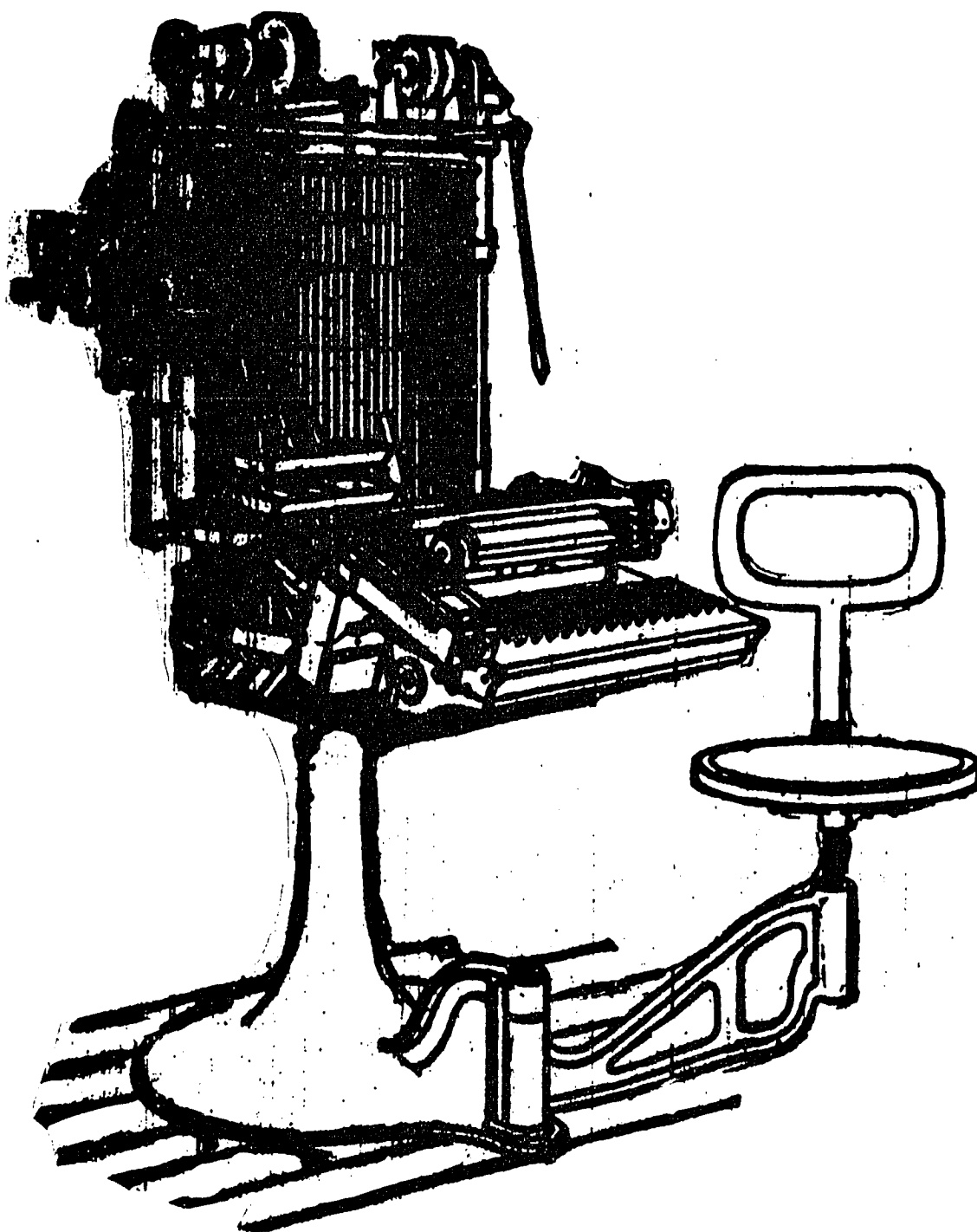


Illustration 13. Progress Typesetting Machine
1902

the week around Christmas. On Tuesday, 23 December 1902, he wrote:

The Progress will not appear again before next Monday. The entire force is tired and needs rest, at least a few days in 365, and proposes to take it the next few days if the plow is stopped. Some of our printers want to pay the homefolks a visit and see their sisters they have not seen within the past twelve months, and the boss--well, it does not matter particularly what becomes of him. In all there are five persons working in the Progress office and five boys who carry the paper to the city subscribers, making ten persons in all who are directly connected with the paper and who depend upon it for meat and bread. They are human beings, want and need rest, and get away and stay away from the office a few days so they can rest with some ease and satisfaction, when they will be better prepared to enter upon the duties of another year. So here's a happy Christmas to all the patrons of the Progress.⁴⁰

Examples of his writing, such as this, not only give a glimpse of his journalistic talent, but also are indicative of employee-employer relations, size of plant and office policy. Seitzler wanted to enlarge the paper with more reading matter to balance the overabundance of advertisements. He campaigned for popular causes, such as paving streets, installing street cars, opposing houses of ill repute, to maintain good relations with his subscribers and advertisers:

The Progress has some more interesting improvements for the city up its sleeve which it will spring at the proper time. This paper is here to do good and when it discovers that its usefulness is no more it will pick up and leave. All it wants is an administration that has a few grains of sand in its craw and is not afraid to do its duty as it sees fit. The Progress gives warning now that it is going to have better streets and sidewalks in the business portion of the city and have the ditches filled in if it takes all the winter and a big portion of the summer, or we will fuss more than the most crabbed old maid in the city--if there were any here.⁴¹

He also advocated the establishment of manufacturing industries and a merchants' association or board of trade to benefit not only the member-merchants, but also their customers by offering lower prices and a wider selection of merchandise.

Regarding subscriptions, he wrote that the man who reads the paper will pay for it in advance, borrow or steal it. "If we had but one subscriber and that subscriber became delinquent, we would cut off his name and send it to his mother-in-law for spite. In short it takes money to run a newspaper and incidental a small amount of brain."⁴² Conversely, another Seitzler witticism proclaimed, "The man who does not read a newspaper cannot be considered fit for a good citizen."⁴³

Indicative of Seitzler's wit, when he read in the Orange (Texas) Daily Tribune that its newsprint was manufactured from yellow pine shavings, he responded: "A newspaper printed on paper made from pine shavings should at least expect to have some resin about it."⁴⁴ The Progress reprinted an article from the Gulfport Record concerning Mississippi having "some good newspapers whose editorial pages reflect intelligence of a high order and a perception of public questions denoting a clear understanding and unbiased mind."⁴⁵ Among those mentioned was the Progress, "with its quaint humor and

straightforwardness. . . . always a readable newspaper, discussing men and measures intelligently and without gloss."⁴⁶ Known for his wit and humor, Seitzler wrote the following item entitled, "All Are Editors:"

The preacher may preach and his sermon may be good, bad or indifferent, but no one will propose to go into the pulpit and take his place. The lawyer may make a good, bad or indifferent argument in the presentation of the case of his client and he may fail, but no one will say that he knows more in one minute about the law than the lawyer is capable of learning in a lifetime. The physician may give the patient this or that medicine and the patient may live or die, but no one is willing to swear that he knows more about medicine and the human system than the physician. But the editor who has been in the business for perhaps a quarter of a century can find plenty men who are willing to swear that they can edit two papers to his one and give entire satisfaction to every reader--those who pay for the paper and those who borrow it. Editing a newspaper, it appears to some people, requires no thought, no study, no energy, no experience, no knowledge of human nature, but simply gall, gas and gush and a railroad pass.

If the bodies of some men were cut in two, one part and nearly all the other would be nothing but gall and gas with a pressure of 10,000 pounds to the square inch of growls and grunts. Human nature is an open book that is studied more thoroughly by the newspaperman than any other book, for it is always open before his eyes and automatically the pages are turned for his personal use.⁴⁷

Exchanges provided a quick and easy source of news and, after attributing an item to its source, Seitzler would often agree with or criticize the item. In 1902 he started a new column, "Over the State," exclusively for items gleaned from exchanges. A year later he complained that, with more than 200 weeklies and dailies in the state, it was too expensive and of no benefit to exchange with every one, "There are some

papers in the state out of which we cannot clip an account of an interesting dogfight."⁴⁸ He also tried unsuccessfully to establish an exchange with the Congressional Record.

Reporters were apparently rather difficult to find and keep, though business was good in 1903.

Seitzler ran the following advertisement:

The Progress wants someone to write locals--someone who would know a piece of news if he should meet it in the road and if he should not meet it to run and overtake it. It does not want an "all-round" man--that is someone who knows more than the editor, more than the office devil, more than someone or all others who are connected with the paper. It simply wants a person who can write up a dogfight, a funeral, a marriage or the death of a mother-in-law.⁴⁹

Seitzler apologized to his readers for having promised the full proceedings of an Ellisville murder trial and not delivering. His newly hired reporter had become "lost, strayed or stolen and neither hair nor hide of him could be found," and Seitzler did not have time to hire another.⁵⁰

Subscribers learned about Seitzler's business:

For the last two days the Progress office has been the busiest place in the city. Everybody from the editor to the printer's devil has had all he could do and more too. The delinquent tax list of the first district was to be set. The delinquent tax list of the city was also to be set. These had to be set by hand--they could not be set on the machine. Then we had city ordinances and a charter a yard long to be set and advertisements to set and others to change. The telephone rang every fifteen minutes and that had to be answered. Besides this, the force in the office is short and the editor had to set type to beat the band. Hence the past few days the paper has not contained much local news. We had no time to get up the news and no time to put it in type had it been gotten up. But the rush is over and Richard is

himself again.⁵¹

Reporters were not the only troublesome workers. Carriers often quit without giving notice or teaching new carriers the routes. Subscribers were lost because the paper was not delivered; others were dropped for nonpayment. Good-natured Seitzler wrote:

You can't get ahead of the average Hattiesburg kid. We refused to pay one of the Progress carriers because he did not deliver the papers, besides he quit late one evening without notifying the office, depriving 85 subscribers from getting that issue at all. But he did not do a thing but go over town and collect the money wherever he knew it was due the office. It is hard to get ahead of the average Hattiesburg kid. By the way, patrons of the Progress are warned not to pay money to carriers without an order.⁵²

Shortly after J. J. Haynie took over management of the Progress, he advertised for a solicitor to take charge of circulation, build it up and see that subscribers got papers promptly everyday. The Progress had never had a circulation manager and Haynie expected the right "git up and git" man to earn "all the way from \$20 to \$35 a week." Haynie also announced that the books were in such "a conglomerated condition" that he felt it necessary to "throw myself upon the mercy of subscription patrons" to notify him concerning their correct expiration dates. The several hundred subscribers involved were given ten days to notify the Progress or be dropped.⁵³

Until the first AP Stylebook appeared in 1953, early Journalists set their own style rules or simply used everyday slang expressions, resulting in some unique

expressions reflective of the times. From the Progress during this period, "blind tiger" referred to cheap or inferior whisky; "whitecappers" were vigilantes or members of voluntary groups formed to regulate public morals; "boodle" or "boodling" was bribe money or bribing; "shuffling the pasteboards" for playing cards; "brother" was often used before the surname of another newspaperman; "Mrs. Dr." used together before applicable surnames, but not "Mr. Dr."; Hattiesburg was referred to as "her" and "herself;" "yellow dog" was an inferior or worthless person or thing. "Nigger" and "colored" were used as often as "Negro." Bible was lowercased. All numbers were written out.

Addressing plagiarism, Seitzler wrote this brief item, "Some of the papers are chiding the Clarion-Ledger for plagiarism. That is nothing new. . . . The Clarion-Ledger would purloin a whole chapter from the bible if it thought it could palm it off on the public as original."⁵⁴ Seitzler reprinted "A Little Lesson" from the Carrollton Conservative:

Journalism is a noble profession. As a whole, the press of Mississippi is high-toned in principal and lofty in sentiment, and is worthy of the profession. But we regret to say that there are a few papers afflicted with editors who seem to think (if they think) that profanity and vulgarity are evidence of genius. Such papers are not fit to enter decent homes, and their editors should be made to depend upon low-flung vulgarians for support, which would result in their speedy extinction.⁵⁵

Another form of vulgarity was not recognized--the defamation of blacks. Seitzler wrote:

A Negro went to sleep on the Northeastern Railroad near Meridian the other day and was cut in two by a passing freight train. It may be a little dangerous to lie on the railroad track and go to sleep, but we can inform the Negroes of Hattiesburg that a man cannot get sweeter sleep any other way and advise them if they want sweet sleep and a long rest without apprehension of being disturbed go to some shady place on the track and there lie down and go sound asleep. A train will come along some time and you will wake up, perhaps after the train has passed, to find yourself in the New Jerusalem. At any rate give it a trial. It is good for your health and better for the community.⁵⁶

On 28 August 1902, in discussing school funds for Negroes, Seitzler wrote that nothing has a greater tendency to elevate the Negro than a grass rope. However, he did initiate a new column headlined "Our Colored Citizens" with the following stipulations:

This column or so much of it that may be required will be devoted to the interest of the colored people of this city and the community. Some of the most prominent colored citizens will be the contributors, but of course every article will be under the supervision of the editor of the paper. They will write articles on education, schools, churches, industrial pursuits and other articles pertaining to the interest and welfare of the race. Political subjects are excluded.⁵⁷

According to the 1900 Census for Perry County, Seitzler was born September 1849 in Louisiana. A widower, he lived in a rented house with his son, Sanford Seitzler, born in Mississippi in December 1891, and Carrie Dailey, servant-governess, born March 1870. His parents were from South Carolina and his deceased wife was from Alabama.⁵⁸ No more information could be found about his personal life.

When Seitzler sold out to J. J. Haynie, "a newspaper man of experience and ability," newspapers

around the state reported the change in ownership, lamenting Hattiesburg's loss of Seitzler and welcoming Haynie.⁵⁹ After a month-long recreational trip through the North and Northwest, Seitzler moved to the Gulf Coast to edit the Gulfport News.

While Seitzler never returned to the Hattiesburg newspaper scene, the Progress did not die yet. Price wrote about it in 1908:

As in everything else, Hattiesburg excels in the matter of newspapers, being the home of the leading newspaper in Southern Mississippi--The Hattiesburg Daily Progress, of which Wm. Moffett, Jr., is proprietor and manager. The Daily Progress circulates well over Southern Mississippi, as well as covering the city of Hattiesburg and Perry county. It is the official organ of the city of Hattiesburg and the county of Perry, and wields a wide influence in the community.

When the present administration took charge of the Daily Progress, something over three years ago, it was a struggling typical country newspaper. The new owner of the Daily Progress and his assistants, being men of experience, from some of the leading newspapers in the country, quickly realized the possibilities of Hattiesburg, and of the Daily Progress. It was not long before a Mergenthaler Linotype machine was installed, taking the place of a machine of inferior make. Then the second Linotype machine was put in--the first double-deck Linotype machine installed in this State. The circulation of the Daily Progress continued to grow by leaps and bounds, and during the past summer, after having changed presses twice in the brief period of three years, it was found necessary to purchase a Webb perfecting press at an approximate cost of \$12,000. This press [see Illustration 14] is the finest piece of printing machinery in the State of Mississippi, being of twelve-page capacity, with two-color attachments. In other words the Daily Progress is generally printed in two colors.

The Daily Progress, during the fall of 1907, has never gone to press with less than ten pages, their average issue being of twelve pages. Often the newspaper, because of heavy advertising, has found it necessary to run sixteen pages during the week.

This newspaper carries the full afternoon report of the Associated Press, and the press service is

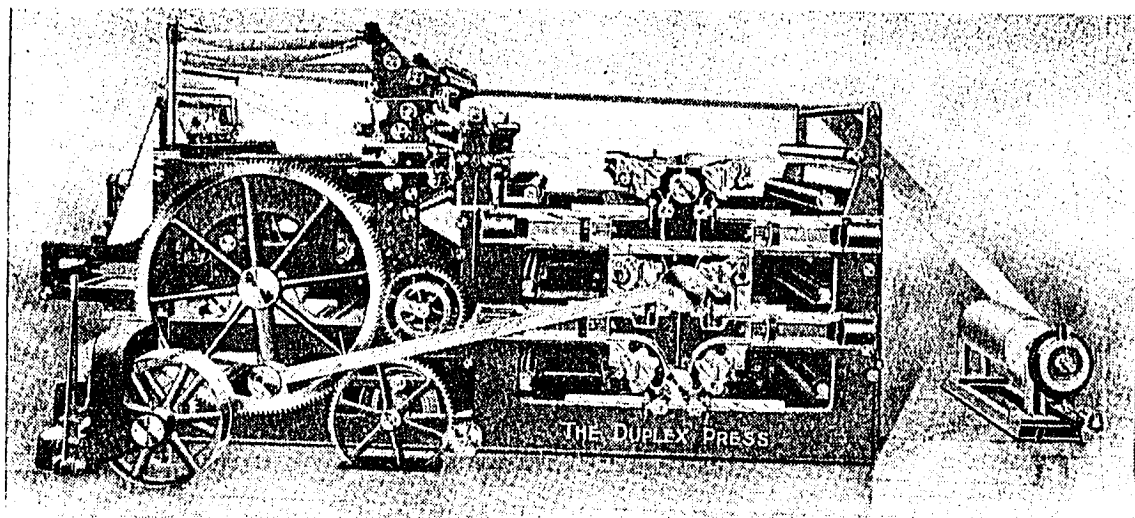


Illustration 14. Progress Duplex Press
1908

handled in an up-to-date and intelligent manner. There is not a stronger newspaper property in the State of Mississippi today than the Hattiesburg Daily Progress.⁶⁰

The press continued to be used for the News and the American until the building was razed in 1973 to make way for a parking garage for Magnolia Federal Bank. The Webb perfecting (which means that it could print on both sides of the paper at the same time) press was sold to a local junk dealer for scrap for five dollars, according to Cress.⁶¹

American Citizen

The earliest extant issue of Hattiesburg's American Citizen, which is Vol. 2, no number, dated 27 July 1894, was published by Harris and Harris.⁶² It was a six-column broadsheet, "devoted to the interests of Southeast Mississippi," and the official journal of Hattiesburg and of Perry County. According to an extant issue dated 15 February 1900, W. F. Palmer was editor and publisher. From 29 September to 7 November 1902, the Daily Progress carried six stories about the serious illness of C. C. Johnson, then editor of the Citizen, once even stating that his chances for recovery were rather slender, but not indicating the nature of the illness until a second series of stories in December when he had surgery for perityphlitis and "money was made up by the good citizens of the city to have the expenses paid."⁶³ Meanwhile, on 10 October 1902, the Progress was authorized to state that the Daily

Citizen could not appear that evening because a rainstorm had damaged the roof so badly the press could not be run.

A month later the Progress reported:

W. L. Booth of this city has purchased the material, good will and subscription list of the Citizen and the first issue under his management appeared this morning. He proposes to make it a morning instead of an evening paper as heretofore and put more vim and life into its columns. The change from an evening to a morning paper is a wise conclusion. The Progress, which has been in existence nearly three years in this city as a daily paper and published in the evening, can and has well filled the field as an evening paper, and it was hardly expected that there was room for another afternoon paper. Mr. Booth is a young man, full of ambition, and the Progress wishes him and his new morning paper publication much success.⁶⁴

Further announcements in the Progress indicate that Booth suspended publication because of an inferior press, perhaps damaged by the rain. On 9 December 1902 it resumed publication as a weekly with John M. Johnson as editor. The Progress on 22 December 1902 apparently condoned by reprinting an item from the Vicksburg American: "Hattiesburg is not large enough for two daily papers and the Progress seems to have full possession of the field. It is to be hoped that the Citizen will have better success as a weekly." An extant copy of Vol. 13, No. 3, dated 9 September 1904, shows J. D. Richardson as editor, with second-class mail privileges granted 23 February 1904.⁶⁵ An extant folio of the Friday, 25 May 1906 issue of the Hattiesburg Weekly Citizen is Vol. 14, No. 40, with James L. McGowan as editor and publisher, and R. W. Brooks as

associate editor (see Illustration 15). It was still a six-column broadsheet with subscriptions at one dollar a year in advance. The subscription policy stated: "This paper is mailed to its subscribers until a definite order to discontinue is received and all arrears are paid in full." Page 1 carried display and classified advertising as well as a column of local news under the head "Localites."

Saturday Evening Eye

The Saturday Evening Eye is next in the chronology of Hattiesburg's extant newspapers.⁶⁶ Because of its format, three columns wide measuring about 11 inches by 15 inches, and because of its use of colored cover stock for Page 1 that usually carried only the flag and a cameo portrait photograph, it was sometimes defined as a magazine.⁶⁷ Also, the Eye, referred to Page 1 as its "title page." Pictured on the earliest available extant issue was Miss Blanche Korndoffer in a portrait sitting by Pitts Studio (see Illustration 16). Sometimes, instead of the portrait, a famous quotation appeared along with the flag on Page 1.

The Eye was published by Samuel B. Martin (see Illustration 44-G) with his brother-in-law, Gaines S. Dobbins, as editor and sole proprietor. The 1905 Ayer's Directory shows Robert E. Martin as publisher. Dobbins was 19 years old at the time, the youngest editor in

..... The
 SATURDAY EVENING
 ...EYE...

NOVEMBER 19, 1904



THE BLANKET COVER
 Made by the State

Published at

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

VOLUME I

NUMBER 21

Price, Five Cents. \$1.50 a Year

Illustration 16. Front Page of Saturday Evening Eye
 19 November 1904 (Vol. 1, No. 21)

Mississippi. His career in journalism had started much earlier. At the Progress when Colonel H. S. Evans was editor, twelve-year-old Dobbins did whatever no one else would do. He:

ran errands, swept the floor, and picked up the type that had been dropped. He learned to set type and to operate the Martha Washington hand press: Position the paper (one sheet at a time), put on a fly and let down, fold under and press the lever, take out the paper and lay it aside. One day, he recalled, a mischievous printer asked him if he wanted to see some "type lice." "Look carefully," he urged. "Put your head close to the type." Then, pressing the separated sections of the type together suddenly, the printer squirted inky water over Gaines' face. The workers at the printing office were scarcely the kindest of men. However, continuing his interest in Gaines, Colonel Evans required his protege to keep a record of all the words in the day's copy which he could not define. "The measure of a man's intelligence," he insisted, "is his ability to use words wisely." At the close of the day's work Gaines had to look up the unfamiliar words in the big dictionary in Colonel Evans' office. Any word he had misspelled he was required to correct in the galleys on his own time.

Later, encouraged by Colonel Evans and W. H. Seitzler, owner of the Progress, Gaines began writing squibs about the guests at his parents' hotel. . . . At the age of twelve Gaines was a printer's devil. At the age of fourteen he was an experienced typesetter and reporter.⁶⁸

He was earning \$3.50 a week at the printing office, when the family decided to move to McHenry in June, 1902, where Gaines worked on the Star before returning to Hattiesburg in May, 1903, to become a full-time journalist:

Under J. J. "Cyclone Jim" Haynie, the new editor-owner of the Progress, his abilities were recognized almost immediately. For not only was Gaines a capable worker (a Master Printer) but he was also reliable. He did not drink. The other printers did, heavily. Newspaper publication, difficult at best, becomes impossible with unreliable printers. In July Gaines was made foreman of the print shop.

In August he was promoted to the rank of chief reporter. In September he became city editor and Associated Press correspondent for South Mississippi as well. By November the Progress had grown from four to twelve pages with "advertising matter double that of any other paper in the state." Then, in December, apparently attracted by a higher salary, Gaines resigned from the Progress to become shop foreman for his brother-in-law, Sam Martin, owner of the Martin Printing Company, the largest job printing shop in Hattiesburg [see Illustration 17].

In June the major reason for Gaines' change of positions became evident, for, on June 21, six months after he had left the Progress, although only seventeen he became coeditor (later editor and, from November through May, proprietor) of the Saturday Evening Eye, a newly established newsmagazine published by the Martin Printing Company. (The story of Gaines' activities rivals the plot of a Frank Merriwell novel!) Within three months, with 500 paid subscribers and "street sales in addition," the Eye had become the second largest weekly in Mississippi. Published at five cents a copy, a typical issue contained two cover pages, three pages of editorials, six pages of feature articles, news reports, fillers ("Eyelets"), legal notices, and seven to nine pages of advertisements (at \$10 a page?[sic] In 1903 the Progress charged 5 cents a line.).

Financially the Eye was a success. Since he was attempting to buy the paper, Gaines received little of the profits himself, of course. The profits were reinvested in equipment for the shop, including a Linotype and a Miehle power press.⁶⁹

The Eye sold for five cents a copy or \$1.50 a year, usually ran twenty pages and had a second-class mailing permit. The name, Saturday Evening Eye, expressed continuity with sections entitled "In the Social Eye," by Miss Ligon G. Smith, and "The Odd Fellow Eye," by H. S. Evans. It also carried church news, short stories, poetry, jokes and advertising. For example, the 5 August 1905 issue contained stories about enforcing the game laws, building the Panama Canal, the prevalence of graft and the local yellow-fever situation, while advertising included clothing, department stores,



Illustration 17. Martin Printing Company
121 West Front Street
circa 1905

furniture, textbooks and an eight-wheel wagon company.

One article discussed the newspapers of Hattiesburg:

Besides the Saturday Evening Eye, Hattiesburg has three newspapers, the Daily Progress, the Perry County Item and the Weekly Citizen. The Progress is one of the most flourishing of Mississippi afternoon papers; is well edited and managed; and carries Associated Press service. William Moffett, Jr., of Chattanooga, Tenn., is proprietor, and A. C. Aylesworth is editor. Miss M. Anna Allen is society editor. The Perry County Item is a bright little four-column folio, owned and edited by Mr. J. A. Myer, and the Citizen, a seven-column folio, is owned and edited by Mr. W. L. McGowan.⁷⁰

A special 70-page Industrial Edition of the Saturday Evening Eye was published 16 December 1905 and sold for ten cents a copy. A special cover was designed by artist F. Hartman of Dixie Marble Works, depicting a scenic view of lakes and pine-tree-covered hills with a pine-cone border (see Illustration 18). A full-page ad from the National Bank of Commerce gives an idea of Hattiesburg's explosive growth at that time--from deposits of \$19,230 in 1895 to \$995,856 in 1905. Other major advertisers in this issue were Bufkin & Cadenhead Druggists, First National Bank, Jones Company Men's Outfitters, Lea-Pool Dry Goods, O'Ferrall's Department Store and Phoenix Laundry. The lead story was on Captain W. H. Hardy, founder of Hattiesburg, followed by stories entitled "The Old South and the New," "America--World's Richest Nation," "The Healthiest City in a Healthy State," "Hattiesburg's Present and Future," "The Gulf and Ship Island Railroad," "Lumber Industry," "People's Ice and Coal Co.," among others. For this special issue,



Illustration 18. Front Page of Saturday Evening Eye
Industrial Edition
December 1905 (Vol. II, No. 22)

Dobbins wrote "A Brief History of Hattiesburg":

From a village of barely 600 inhabitants 22 years ago to a city of 14,500 at the present; from a property valuation of about \$30,000 in 1885 to nearly \$8 million in 1905--20 years since; from a dense pine forest, much of which 25 years ago had never been seen or traversed by man, to one of the wealthiest, most populous and prosperous sections of the state; in a word, springing from a wilderness to a metropolis within the phenomenally short time of less than 30 years--such is the record of Hattiesburg, typical of the New Era of the New South.⁷¹

After the 23 December 1905 issue, Martin suspended publication because Dobbins had enrolled as a student at Mississippi College, a Baptist school in Clinton, and left Hattiesburg on 1 January 1906. He went on to earn a Doctor of Theology degree and become a professor of religious education and church administration at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. Martin could not find a "practical printer" replacement. Martin assured his readers the problem was not a financial one, that the net profit was fifty percent more than the investment had been and that the Eye was one of the most valuable newspaper properties in the state. It had published for nearly two years and gone into more than 1,000 homes.

The Tribune

The only extant copy of The Tribune, a six-column broadsheet, indicated weekly publication by the Martin Printing Co., with subscriptions at \$1.50 a year or 85 cents for six months, and a typographical union label.⁷² It was entered as

second-class matter on 29 May 1914. The lead editorial discusses its "good paper" so illustrations compare favorably with the best magazines; having no interests other than Hattiesburg and South Mississippi; being constructive and helpful to local industries; having printed 3,500 copies making it a good advertising medium; calling attention to the quality of illustrated advertising; and soliciting subscriptions. The editor's name is not given and it is not known how long this newspaper was published.

The Hub Breeze

The Hub Breeze (see Illustration 19) had the slogan, "Devoted to the interest of Hattiesburg, Forrest County and South Mississippi" and sold for a subscription price of \$1.50 a year.⁷³ Ears informed of a liberal commission paid to subscription solicitors, weekly newsletters published and correspondents wanted in every community. It was a six-column broadsheet folio with no advertising on Page 1 and had been entered as second-class matter on 14 March 1930, which would be an indication of about when it started publishing.

Prominently displayed on page one of this issue is the obituary notice for Mrs. Samuel B. Martin which shows Dr. Gaines S. Dobbins, instructor in the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky, as her brother. Samuel B. Martin was the owner and publisher of the Hub Breeze, but no editor was given.

Hattiesburg Independent

The Hattiesburg Independent was published every Friday morning with a guaranteed distribution of 1,000.⁷⁴ Editor and publisher was C. A. McDonald; advertising manager, Mary McDonald; offices at 114 1/2 Front Street, over Cole's Studio. Subscriptions were \$1.50 per year in advance. This four-page broadsheet was published "for the exclusive use of all businesses and professions of Hattiesburg and Forrest County."

South Mississippi Weekly

The South Mississippi Weekly is one of the few black newspapers to be published in Hattiesburg and the only "true" one for which extant issues could be found (see Illustration 20). A six-column broadsheet, it appeared on Thursdays briefly in the fall of 1982, and carried news, features and advertising of interest to the black community. Publisher-editor Leroy Mims stated in his first editorial, "Black newspapers all across this country are struggling week after week to keep their doors open. This should not be. We have enough black people in almost every city to support a black weekly newspaper." According to the 1980 U.S. Census, 36 percent of the population of Hattiesburg is nonwhite. In numbers, whites account for 26,295; blacks, 13,995; American Indians, 28; Asians, 249; and others, 266.

In the masthead, Mims wrote, "The purpose of this newspaper is to service the whole community with special

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI WEEKLY

VOL. 1 NUMBER 1

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1982

50¢

A Man for the People Dream Comes True

A Man for the People

This community put forth a task with undoubted passion at some point in time. For Mr. Vernon E. Floyd, this time arrived June 1, 1961, when he started station WMBH-TV.

WMBH was born, becoming the first black owned and operated station in the state of Mississippi.

Floyd, a native of Mobile, Alabama, has broadcasting career appointments. He started as a copywriter at a non-ethnic black owned radio station WMBH in Mobile. When at WMBH, the deep, robust voice man stated that he was moved by a divine command. He developed a desire to own a station that catered to the black community and better expressed the needs of the community. It was the community and desire which moved him to start WMBH and recently the second black FM radio station in the state of Mississippi, WMBH.

In building the radio station, Floyd decided against the Mobile area. He then began a search on a 160-acre radio of Mobile. Seeing that the Hattiesburg area did not have a station which catered to the needs of the black community, he then did interest and feasibility studies to determine the amount of community interest in a black station. Based upon the results of the studies, he decided that the area would be a favorable location.

Intermittent, hard work, as well as a few pretty good finds through his first years at the station which he literally built with his own hands. His determination and strength, he feels, was inherited from a direct African ancestor, Cudjoe Karcia Lewis. Cudjoe arrived in America on the last slave

ship from Egypt, Africa, around 1619. He is believed to have been a leader of the tribe and is credited with the upholding of his people after entering this country.

Said Floyd, "He was a leader in his own right." However, Floyd's inherent streak of ambition has been with him for most of his life. While attending high school in Mobile, while most young men were involved in physical activities, this determined young man would spend time developing his intellectual abilities. He said that he has always had a scientific vein and read a lot of science magazines and experimented trying to make movies.

Floyd goes on to say that though none of his inventions were successful, the experience gave him broadened vision into the electrical area. It is his basic background which prompted Floyd into going on to Jackson Institute where he majored in electronics. He also notes that while at Jackson, he was exposed to business management as well as architectural and mechanical drawing. This training steered Floyd into the broadcast industry and not into his present position. His background enabled him to not only build the station but his all the electrical work as well. He also installed the station's transmitter.

Concluding, there is not a whit at the station, that this owner can not effectively handle. He notes however that the growth of these stations required a great deal of ambition, strength, and determination as well as a great deal of sweat. "It appears to be that way," he said. It involved 90% perspiration and 10% inspiration.



Tatum and the Palmer's Crossing Fire Station

"In every life some rain must fall" is an age-old adage which is applicable to every thing on the face of the earth. For Walter Tatum, acting chief of the Palmer's Crossing Volunteer Fire Dept., the saying is especially true.

A native of Perry County, Mississippi, Tatum moved to Hattiesburg in 1954, where he has since resided with the exception of a brief period, 1955-1957, during which time he served in the U.S. Army. It was upon his return, the majority of problems began.

In 1962, Tatum landed a job with Howell Chemical Co., where he worked in varied capacities. In 1971, the company suffered with severe problems of production. During this time, Tatum was devoted to his first job level in the company. He then filed suit with E.I. du Pont, which conducted a thorough investigation. Howell Chemical Company was held in violation and was ordered to hire blacks in various capacities of the corporation.

For Tatum however, the victory was short lived. In 1971, he was hurt while on the job and his health was disabled. At this point Tatum began devoting his time to the establishing of a Fire Dept. in the Palmer's Crossing area.

Tatum states that plans for the Fire station were begun in 1974. At this time he and other community residents met and collected money to support the cause.

When asked why was there such a great interest shown in the community concerning a fire department, Tatum explains,

"At that time, there were no fire stations in this area. Anytime a

house caught on fire, it burned before the departments in the city arrived. This was because the white or blacks to get in an uproar." This action caused tensions to grow among area residents and members of the fire department.

In 1976, the community, with \$7,400 of their own money, collected over a two year period, purchased its first piece of equipment - a fire truck and began its operation. Tatum's work does not end here. In 1976, the Palmer's Community became more and more concerned with the lack of paved streets in the district. As president of the Concerned Citizens of Palmer's Crossing, Tatum and other members collected enough money to hire attorneys, Andelman, Addison, and Striner. The group then filed suit against then ILEW Secretary Joseph Callahan and the Hattiesburg Board of Supervisors, complaining of the lack of concern for the Palmer's area. The group won in an out of court settlement which provided paved streets in the area, help for the fire department, a secure sewer system, as well as a recreation center for the area.

Nevertheless, everything in Palmer's isn't exactly perfect and plans are now underway with the Board of Supervisors to build a new fire station further up Old Airport Road near Beeson Academy. Tatum has mixed feelings about this situation.

"This will move the power from the black area to the white area. Some blacks have been cooperating with the whites. If they'll cooperate and help, they may be it better."

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NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY

We want to extend an invitation for you to become a part of this paper. We need the input of everyone in the community. We are asking all churches to send us a calendar of their events. We also need a schedule of your services for our churchgoers, and any announcements you may have. This information is printed at no charge.

We are also asking all clubs and organizations to send us your announcements and meeting dates, so we can print this information for you at no charge also. We ask the community in general to send us your announcements. For example, births, weddings, engagements, birthdays, promotions, etc. We want the best news! Such

as death, hospital and sick reports, etc. We want you to be a part of this paper. Report your happy and sad events to us so we can share them with the rest of the community or if you would like to write an article for the paper, please feel free to do so. After all, this is your paper and it won't cost you a penny to put your information in the

paper. We do request that all material for the paper be in writing to cut down on errors. You can drop your news off by our office at 110 E. Main Street, Suite 303 or you can mail it in the same address. All material for print must be received no later than Monday noon before the next printing date.



Mrs. Charlene Owens A Success Story

perpetuating their lives after someone else.

There's always some attributes in other individuals that won't fit another person.

A successful woman in her own right, Mrs. Owens says that her mother inspired her to go into business. The youngest of three children born to Mrs. Josephine Fairley Washington, Mrs. Washington, B.I., currently runs a community grocery store in Columbia, MS. Mrs. Owens was raised in an atmosphere of self-dependence. She proudly states that her parents, despite economic conditions during her childhood, survived, thereby dispelling the myth that blacks can't make it.

The early 1950's marked the beginning of Mrs. Owens' business career. It was during this time that she "perched" a new defunct Kefauver Haven B. Robinson, the first black day care center in this area. Mrs. Owens states that the kindergarten featured the first black graduation ceremonies complete with cap and gown. She further goes on to say that the reason for starting the school is that there was a definite need for it in the community.

A few years later Mrs. Owens discovered the need for better housing for black school teachers. It was then that she opened the Scholastic Teacher's Home, a housing unit for single black women. Later she acquired a permanent trailer unit to set up housing for married couples.

Today, Mrs. Owens' business and real estate holdings have grown considerably. Some of the more noted ones in the Hattiesburg area include Charlene's Enterprises, Golden Gate Furniture Home, Shopper's World Mini Mall, Jerry B. Owens Business & Professional Plaza Building and Charlene's Modern Day Apartments. In Jackson she owns the On The Avenue Mall. These businesses provide jobs for many people in the area, a fact that Mrs. Owens is very proud of.

But successful business relationships are not the only accomplishments of which this strong lady can boast. She is also the mother of three very successful children. Each child is successful in his or her own right. They are daughters, Johnnie Ruth and Judy, and son, Jerry. Jerry and Johnnie Ruth are currently operating businesses in the Jackson and Hattiesburg area. Judy has a successful law practice in Jackson.

One reason for these achievements can be attributed to a basic belief of Mrs. Owens, "Anything can be done." It is this belief in which she has instilled not only in her children, but community youth as well.

"If you say with it, get God and yourself in it, there's no failure."

Illustration 20. Front Page, South Mississippi Weekly 9 September 1982 (Vol. 1, No. 1)

emphasis on the black community. We don't believe in race separation but rather we believe in the unity of all races working toward one goal to make America and the world a better place to live."⁷⁵

After the first issue, price per copy fell from 50 cents to 25 cents; and subscriptions from \$20 a year to \$10. Advertising was sold by the column inch: \$3 for 1-15 column inches; \$2.75, 16-30; \$2.50, 31-45; \$2.25, 46-60; and \$2, 61-126 column inches. By the fourth and last extant issue available, Mims had taken out bulk rate permit No. 93 indicating his intention to maintain a mailing list of at least 200.⁷⁶

Persons

A more recently established extant newspaper is Persons, which ran from November 1977 (see Illustration 21) to December 1981 (see Illustration 22), as "Hattiesburg's only locally owned newspaper." A husband-and-wife team, Alec and Gabi Clayton, were editors and publishers, and News Publishing Co., Waynesboro, was the printer. News Publishing also prints the Wayne County News and Hattiesburg's Hub City Community News. Gabi Clayton may be seen in Illustration 21 holding their younger son, Bill, 3, while Noel, 5, sits on Santa's knee. Santa, however, is not Alec.

Persons began as a semimonthly twelve-page tabloid located in a converted gas station at 125 East

HATTIESBURG**NOV. 15-30, 1977****Persons****25¢****PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH**

VOL. 1 NO. 1

WHAT'S HAPPENING

ENTERTAINMENT IN AND AROUND TOWN

**JOHNNY CAN'T READ
BUT HE CAN SUE**

BY NAT HENTOFF

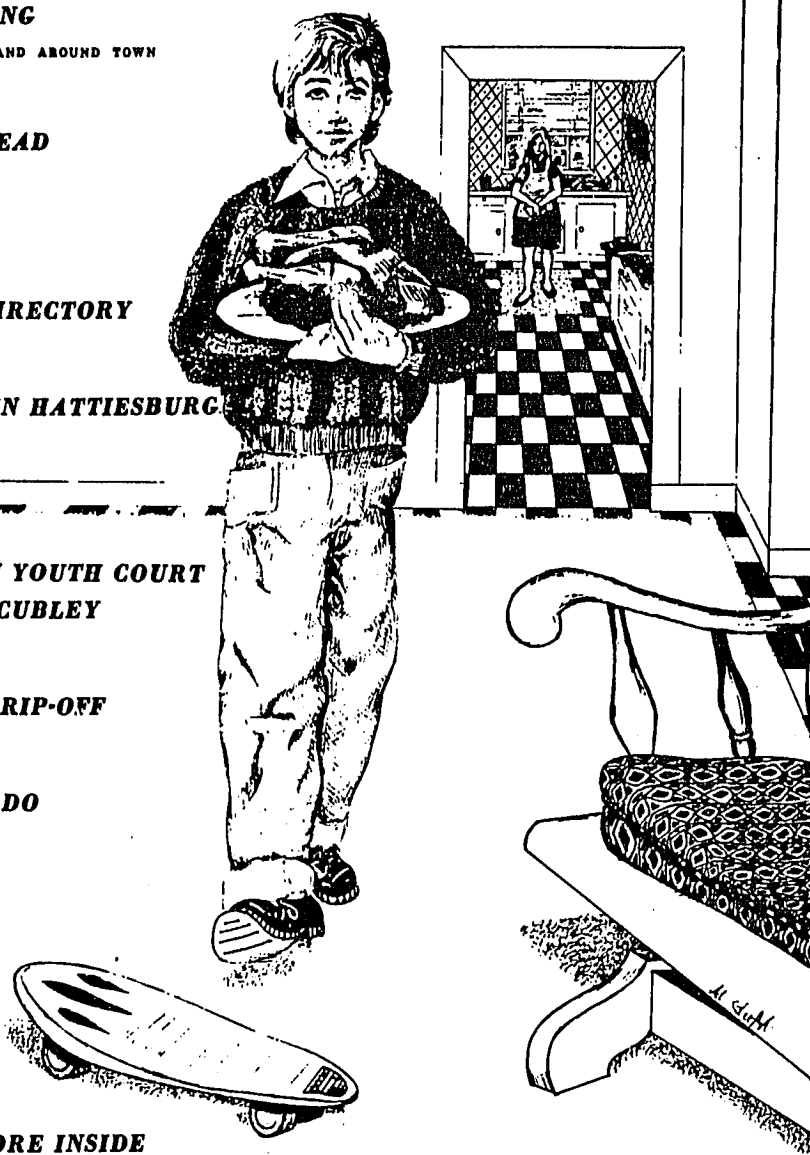
AREA SERVICE DIRECTORY**COMING OF AGE IN HATTIESBURG****INTERVIEW WITH YOUTH COURT
JUDGE, HAROLD CUBLEY****THE GREAT FOOD RIP-OFF****POISON! WHAT TO DO****ALL THIS AND MORE INSIDE**

Illustration 21. Front Page of Persons
15-30 November 1977 (Vol. 1, No. 1)

THE LAST Persons NEWSPAPER

Vol.V No. 4

Dec. 18, 1981

FREE

IN THIS ISSUE

New Year's
Entertainment

MOVIE REVIEW

Tattoo

Holiday Candy



Saenger Organ Unveiling

Nationally known theatre organist, Jack Moelmann, of Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, has been scheduled to perform at the first public exhibition of Hattiesburg's restored Norton organ, located in the Saenger Center. The unveiling of the restored 1929 organ has been scheduled for December 20 at 7PM.

Moelmann, who started in music at the age of 7, has performed at such places as Westminster Abbey in London, the Pantheon in Rome, and the Carnegie Hall Cinema Theatre in New York.

He is listed in WHO'S WHO, THE DICTIONARY OF INTERNATIONAL BIOGRAPHY, and NOTABLE AMERICANS. Moelmann became well known in the Southeast while he was assigned to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi during the mid 1970s.

The unveiling concert will be the first public function to be held in Hattiesburg's newly restored Saenger Theatre.

The organ, which was sold several years ago, was brought back to Hattiesburg when the city purchased it just over a year ago. Since that time, the Robert Norton organ has been expanded to become one of the finest theatre organs in the Southeast. It is currently the only functional theatre organ in the state of Mississippi that is located in a public building.

Tickets for the performance will be \$2.00 and will be available at the door. Advance ticket information is available by calling 269-8570.

Season's Greetings

Nothing says Christmas like children on Santa's knee. These children were pictured in front of the Snoflake Shop on Hardy Street. With Santa is Mrs. Claus, in the background, and one of two elves who were on hand.

The sleigh is an antique owned by Kate Grosman of Hattiesburg. It was probably used as a farm sleigh in Pennsylvania around 1820 and is still in its original condition. The sleigh is made of wicker with cast iron runners, and we understand the owner wants to sell it -- quite a unique item for an antique buff.

Candlelight Tour

The yearly candle display in the Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood will take place Saturday and Sunday, December 19 and 20 from 5:30 to 9:30PM. Over 13,000 candles are expected to be burning in the area which is bound by

Southern Avenue, Hall, Williams and East Laurel.

In conjunction with the display, the Court Street Methodist Church will have a singing Christmas tree on the lawn of the church December 20 from 7 to 8PM.

Illustration 22. Front Page, Persons, Final Issue
18 December 1981 (Vol. 5, No. 4)

Pine Street where the Claytons lived with their infant son, Noel. Features in the paper appealed to the social consciousness of readers by covering such topics as alcoholism, child abuse, consumer news, crime prevention, divorce, endangered wildlife, the global food situation and pesticides. The paper also carried an area service directory, book reviews, entertainment (at clubs, movies, performing arts, for children), crossword puzzles and "Person of the Week" interviews. Alec did most of the writing and artwork; Gabi, the layout, pasteup and bookkeeping.⁷⁷

The first weekly issue of Persons (Vol. 1, No. 6) appeared on 6 February 1978. Advertising and subscription rates remained constant. "Unclassified" advertising rates were one dollar for 25 words, and one dollar for each additional ten words. Subscriptions were \$1.25 for six issues, \$2.50 for twelve, and \$5 for 24 (one year). Single copies were 25 cents each. Advertising was free to anyone needing help or information that could not be gotten through other channels. Advertising salespersons earned a 25 percent commission. An early slogan, "The Buckle on the Pine Belt," was later replaced with "Hattiesburg's News Weekly."

In July 1978 Persons was moved to 224 Second Avenue where the editors could fulfill their original plan to offer free meals, clothes, books, personal counseling and emergency housing, in addition to the

publication of their newspaper. The idea of combining a newspaper with a service organization originated for them at Everything For Everybody, Jack Scully's Manhattan co-op, where the editors had worked, met and married.

In 1966 an ex-seminarian, ex-alcoholic, ex-businessman started a small business in New York City which boasted of doing Everything For Everybody--for a small fee.

The new business was, at first, nothing more than a glorified bulletin board. The way it worked was on a membership basis. Any person could list any job, service or goods for sale or trade or requests or, in brief, anything that was legal; and these listings were made available to other persons to use. The only requirement was membership, and membership consisted of paying a membership fee which, at that time, was three dollars for a year. So if someone wanted to hire a babysitter, for example, that person could list with Everything For Everybody that they needed a babysitter, and another member who needed work would see their listing and contact them. . . .

They got some very unusual requests. There are people who wanted to hire killers or to sell drugs or prostitute. These people were denied membership. There are others like the woman psychiatrist who wanted a bodyguard to sit by her office door while she interviewed a potential violent patient and the nightclub owner who wanted to hire a midget doorman. These requests were speedily filled and the organization became famous. They were written up in the New York Times and the News and Newsweek. The founder, an Irishman named Jack Scully, was invited to appear on "The Tonight Show" and "What's My Line."

Restaurants and supermarkets donated food that was edible but not saleable. Cloths were donated. Most of the upkeep was provided by trading--someone got a free meal and swept the floor in return; a broken window was replaced by a glass company in exchange for a free ad in the newspaper that Everything For Everybody published.⁷⁸

In January 1980, Persons Service was incorporated as a non-profit organization with memberships at \$5 a month, \$15 for six months, \$25 a year and \$100 lifetime. Free to everyone were meals, books, clothes, emergency housing, personal counseling and Friday night group

meetings. In addition, members were invited to suppers and parties, had unlimited free unclassifieds, and access to a lounge and reading room.

With Vol. 3, No. 17, dated 21-27 March 1980, they moved to bigger quarters at 115 East Front Street. However, in September 1980 the shelter was closed; the Claytons and their volunteer helpers felt overworked and underfinanced, though they planned to reopen in November. But the Claytons did not follow up on this plan. In November 1980 they added "News, Commentary, Sports, TV Schedule, Comics, Entertainment, Classifieds" to the Persons flag and concentrated their energies on the newspaper. They moved back to the smaller quarters at 224 Second Avenue and in the subsequent issue's editorial, stated their goals to use the paper to promote human concerns, stimulate and promote the arts, create an open forum for discussion, promote local business, help people achieve a fuller life, provide recognition for achievements by local people, and improve understanding between the races and different social and economic groups.⁷⁹

On 3 September 1981, Vol. 4, No. 41, Persons advertised as being free, as the editorial explained "to facilitate rapid growth . . . guarantee a large circulation . . . get more advertising." The editors estimated that two-thirds of the newsstand copies were being stolen. Distribution was 2,000 to 3,000 with a goal of 10,000 by Christmas. Vol. 5, No. 4, dated 18

December 1981, was the last issue of Persons as a newsweekly. In January 1982 it was reformatted into a monthly magazine entitled Persons: The Magazine for Hattiesburg and South Mississippi, 40 pages, 8 1/4 by 10 1/2 inches, free at the newsstand or five dollars a year by mail, with 5,000 distribution. In the winter 1983-84, it was renamed Mississippi Arts and Letters and became a 48-page arts quarterly, selling for two dollars a copy or five dollars a year. By April 1985 efforts were being made with the College of Fine Arts, University of Southern Mississippi, to assume publisher responsibilities.

North Lamar Chronicle

On 21 January 1982 another husband-and-wife team, Janice S. and Douglas T. Lowery, as editor and publisher, respectively, established the North Lamar Chronicle (see Illustration 23), publishing every Thursday from Route 4, Box 115-A at Lake Serene, a suburb west of Hattiesburg. This six-column, eight-page broadsheet had a press run of 2,000 and sold at twenty cents or six dollars a year in the county and eight dollars outside. Its slogan was "Lamar County's Refreshing Source." To increase paid circulation, mutually beneficial subscription drives were conducted by the Oak Grove Lion's Club and the young people of Immanuel Baptist Church.

In a 26 August 1982 editorial entitled "Progress," expectations of growing with the county were stated and an open-house was planned as the Chronicle

THU WEDAY, JANUARY 31, 1902

Sheriff Little fires Smith

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announced relocation to larger quarters in the former David M. Cox Mobile Homes office on U.S. 98 West. Promises also were made to continue to provide up-to-date news coverage regardless of how controversial and to offer Oak Grove Warrior play-by-play football coverage, never afforded before. The Rev. Phil T. Harris, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church was a regular contributor to the paper, as were Houston Ladner, county agent; Congressman Trent Lott and Senator John C. Stennis. During the life of this paper, staff members included Jeff R. Gordan, assistant editor; Amanda Allen, operational manager; Sylvia Ashley, Joe E. Garvin and Dave Webster, columnists; Rose M. Sullivan, feature editor and photographer; Sharon Ward, managing editor; Ann Barmer, David Hanberry, Tish Little, Ann Turner and Debra Walker, advertising.

In January 1983 the paper was sold to another husband-and-wife team, Lee and Margaret Parker, who, with the 3 February 1983 issue, changed its name to The Southern Chronicle, but continued the volume numbering, this being Vol. II, No. 3 (see Illustration 24). The slogan was changed to "South Mississippi's Refreshing Source." These changes were made because expanded distribution now encompassed Forrest, Pearl River and Marion Counties, as well as Lamar County. Lee is a practicing attorney and politically active, having run for district attorney and for circuit court judge. He was defeated in both races. This political activity

The Southern Chronicle

Vol. II, Number 3
U.S. Postage Paid - Pay to Order
Permit No. 175

VOLUME II NUMBER 3

Lake Serene, Mississippi

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1983

20c

Chronicle expands coverage area

Due to expanded distribution throughout the Southern portion of Mississippi, the NORTH LAMAR CHRONICLE has changed its name to the SOUTHERN CHRONICLE. Chronicle Editor, Janice Lowery said "I am extremely pleased with the tremendous response we have received from our readers and advertisers during the first year of operation." The weekly newspaper originated over one year ago and in order to comply with the current demands from surrounding counties, the new, SOUTHERN CHRONICLE,

will serve a four-county area, Lamar, Forrest, Pearl River, and Marion. Mrs. Lowery said that papers will be distributed throughout the four-county area as the public demands. Due to the increase in cost of distribution, Mrs. Lowery announced last week that subscription rates would increase slightly. A \$10.00 rate will be imposed throughout the four-county area and a \$12.00 rate will be imposed outside the immediate area of coverage. The increase is effective immediately,

according to her.

"We began with a very small operation over one year ago. We had no idea at that time that we would be accepted in the newspaper business as readily as we have been. More and more readers are calling and sending correspondence through the mail asking us to deliver to their area," she said. "We will continue to cover news happenings in the Oak Grove-McNab-Lamar area and our office will still be situated in its present location. We have only changed the name and the distribution route. We have always

enjoyed being identified with the Oak Grove community and we will continue to serve those readers with local news that pertains to their community. We will also serve other counties as well."

The CHRONICLE will provide interesting material to its readers in the concentrated area that pertains to the Southern Region of Mississippi. The limitations will be disregarded as far as the name is concerned.

Mrs. Lowery announced that the paper's logo will change from

"Lamar County's Refreshing Source" to "South Mississippi's Refreshing Source." She created the logo with the first publication of the CHRONICLE. "We felt that the CHRONICLE provided its readers with up-to-date material while keeping them abreast of the current events happening in the area. We will continue to practice in this fashion because our readers have adapted so well to our methods of performance. We feel that the CHRONICLE will continue to provide readers with refreshing information and that is the primary reason we have

adopted the new logo, "South Mississippi's Refreshing Source."

The public is invited to communicate with the staff of the Chronicle and readers are invited to submit material for publication.

"We look forward to our future in South Mississippi. We are only one small aspect that indicates the rapid growth of Mississippi's Sun Belt. We are proud to be a part and to be of service to so many deserving people," Mrs. Lowery commented.

Quadriplegic justice court judge maintains courage, dignity throughout the difficult traumas that dominate his life style

TEXT BY JANICE S. LOWERY

Learn the principals of success and then apply them. "is the advice of Pearl River County Justice Court Judge H.K. Smith of Picayune. In spite of his 24-year-old condition, diagnosed as quadriplegic, the 42-year-old judge is very active in the pursuit of justice in his home county of Pearl River. An automobile accident at age 18 left Smith without the use of his arms or legs. He has proven to his fellow Pearl River Countyans that the unfortunate accident did not result in paralysis of the brain. However, his inability to move has limited only sharpened and enhanced his capabilities to learn and remember. A native of Poplarville in his eleventh year to join the Navy. Following his discharge, he decided to return to school and finish. It was during this period in his life that fate threw him a curveball. Judge Smith managed to live through the accident that changed his life. "The adjustments were difficult." Doctors told him his third, fourth, fifth and sixth vertebrae were irreparably beyond repair and that he would remain paralyzed for the rest of his life.

"The adjustments were difficult."

In 1970 he married Jackson McCQueen of Picayune, Jackson, a model wife and companion, teaches near their home at Carver Christian School. "I work during the mornings while the judge is on his stomach reading." The judge is confined to a "Bikar Bed" that is easily adjusted and mobile, allowing him to sit or lie in several positions.

"I don't like fiction. I enjoy reading law, studying Mississippi Codes, government, history and biographies," he commented.

The Smiths built their home shortly after they married. "We designed the floor plan so the judge can move practically all over the house," said Janice.

Judge Smith entered the world of politics during a 1978 campaign for representative. "It was a five-man race and I was the man with the fewest votes," he said. "I was immediately qualified and mobile enough and I feel that's what beat me."

Following the 1978 campaign for representative, many friends told the judge that they would vote for him if he would seek a post that didn't require as much mobility.

During 1978 the District Three Justice Court Judge of Pearl River County died of cancer. It was at that time Smith decided to seek the vacant position. "I ran with eight other candidates and tied the ticket that won the special election," Smith was re-elected in 1978 for the same position.

"My intentions are to run for re-election again this year," he added. Judge Smith has had his share of difficulties and hardships during his political career. He ran for justice court judge because he knew he could perform the duties honestly. However, he also needed to supplement his income.

According to Smith, when he was approached by a local bondsman who was soliciting support for the sheriff. "Every citizen is not a judge. However, every judge is a citizen," Smith said. He has always stood firm in his beliefs and convictions and believes that everyone deserves the right to choose the candidate they wish to support. The judge explained his beliefs to the bondsman and according to him, he was threatened that the sheriff "would cut him out." Just recently the Mississippi Legislature revamped the laws concerning justice court judge's salaries. The office will operate under a fee system until next year when all judges will be placed on salaries according to population figures in the district.

"I'll run my court the way I see fit."



H.K. and Janice Smith



H.K. and Janice Smith

Smith said he told the bondsman, "I will run my court the way I see fit." According to Smith, the harassment began at that time. Shortly following the first incident, Smith said a deputy visited him and offered him a bribe for his support. "Again I turned them down," he stated.

The third visit came from the sheriff himself, who told Smith the district attorney was looking for an excuse to indict him if he didn't cooperate with the department, according to Smith. They were denied the cooperation which resulted in further harassment, according to the judge. "I was then approached to give the sheriff \$10.00 for each ticket I issued. All five judges were ordered to cooperate. I refused. Prior to this my income was \$2,000-\$2,700 per month. After I refused to obey my income dropped to \$400-\$500 per month. They bragged around town about how they were going to starve me out," said Smith.

"Learn the principals of success and then apply them."

Smith explained that the Audit Department investigated the matter and ordered the other four judges to stop paying the \$10.00 per ticket order from the sheriff.

"After the sheriff and the police chief of Picayune learned against me, I witnessed several cases that indicated police brutality during this time which resulted in me making several statements regarding the matter," he said. Sheriff's department and police officers were ordered not to obey any orders from the District Three Court, according to Smith. "They refused to serve any process from my court for about nine months. I appealed to the county attorney, district attorney, United States Attorney in Jackson, the FBI, the attorney general's office, the office of Revenue Sharing because they supplied the money to build the police department. Finally the matter went to chancery court where the judge ordered the Picayune Police Department to accept my process."

Complaints were signed last year against Judge Smith and a petition was filed with the Commission on Judicial Performance Committee which resulted in a hearing involving several witnesses. According to Smith, some of the witnesses that testified against him didn't even know him.

An excerpt taken from the commission's findings is as follows. Judge Smith offered a number of witnesses to establish that composite exhibit five consisting of a number of complaints signed against Judge Smith were signed through coercion or pressure. The overwhelming evidence supports that view. It would seem that these complaints were drafted by Chief Lower (former Picayune Police Chief) in the heat of the dispute between himself and Judge Smith and it should be noted that they were not considered in the formal complaint and received no credibility in this finding of fact. Several witnesses testified for Judge Smith that he is always available and he is basically a good and hard working judge. It also seems to be the consensus that his physical handicap does not affect the running of his office.

The clear and convincing evidence does not support the charge that Judge Smith is guilty of the following activities or that such activities establish misconduct:

- (a) Incarcerating defendants without bail on bailable charges;
- (b) Increasing the amount of bail after bail had been set by Circuit Court; (While he may have done this, he felt justified and there is no evidence that this was an illegal act);
- (c) That he refused to transmit the transcript of an appeal as required by Section 95-35-B of the Mississippi Code of 1972, thereby requiring a mandamus action to be filed. (He said that he refused to transmit the appeal on account of what he felt was an inadequate bond);
- (d) Publicly attacking the Picayune Police Department by having his Constable sign affidavits against the Picayune Police Chief;
- (e) Refused to allow the Police Unit's attorney to enter an appearance for him;
- (f) Issued Respondent's own subpoenas for approximately twenty eight individuals;
- (g) Publicly commented on the merits of the case.

"It was their intention to have me removed from office. That's why they requested this hearing before the Commission on Judicial Performance," Smith said.

The case is now awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court, according to him. "They haven't set a date yet but I anticipate the case will go before the Supreme Court during April or May of this year," the Judge said.

Illustration 24. Front Page of Southern Chronicle
3 February 1983 (Vol. II, No. 3)

occurred before he purchased the paper. Margaret is a second-grade teacher and sells real estate for Hattiesburg Gallery of Homes, Inc. Single copies went up to 25 cents, and subscriptions to \$10 a year in Lamar, Forrest, Pearl River and Marion Counties; \$12 elsewhere.

During the life of this paper, staff members included Janice S. Lowery and Dana Gower, executive editors; Stephen E. Tillman, managing editor; Phil T. Harris, general manager and advertising director; Jeffrey D. Harris (Phil's son), operational director; Lisa J. Jones (Phil's daughter), advertising manager; Debra Walker, advertising assistant; Dana Gower and R. Scott Williams, news editors; Mitch Deaver, Joe E. Garvin, Jeff Hall and Alicia Harper, staff writers; R. Scott Williams, sports editor; Shelia Diermayer and Glenn Nobles, special correspondents; Marion Johnson, columnist, "Purvis Personals;" Karen Brown and Lori Parker, Lumberton satellite bureau.

With the 27 April 1983 issue a branch office was opened at 215 West Main Street, Lumberton, where the Headblock had just ceased publication. Dana Gower had been its operations manager, then joined the Southern Chronicle as news editor. With the 28 July 1983 issue, Margaret Parker appeared on the masthead as general manager/publisher; Lee Parker never appeared on the masthead. In a front-page story on 8 September 1983, managing editor Tillman sought resident volunteers to help report events in their home communities. He invited

club and organizational reporters, secretaries, clerks and anyone else who was interested in reporting news in Lumberton, Oak Grove, Purvis and Sumrall to call him, noting that high-school journalism and English teachers could use this opportunity to give their students practical experience.

With the 15 September 1983 issue, "Lamar County's 'Hometown' Newspaper" was added to the masthead, and Shelia Diermayer of the Hair Affair, a beauty parlor next door to the Chronicle Lumberton bureau, became a special correspondent and began to contact and accept news, personals and advertising from businesses and individuals, especially when the bureau office was closed. The Christmas 1983 issue was mailed to all 9,000 Lamar County households in an effort to increase circulation. This paper ceased publication in May 1984.

The first issue of the most recent Hattiesburg newspaper appeared on Thursday, 4 [sic] May 1985. Begun by the Lowerys with financial backing from James Ray Carpenter, director of the University of Southern Mississippi golf course, The Chronicle, claimed to be "Hattiesburg's largest circulation newspaper, circulation 27,611 by U.S. mail" (see Illustration 2). Started as a free-distribution mail-out, by No. 4 it had included Petal to increase the circulation to 33,000 and announced a change to paid subscriptions of \$10 inside the Hattiesburg trade area and \$12 outside. After the fifth issue, it ceased publication for financial reasons. This

six-column broadsheet was published every Wednesday by Line Design Typographers, 2119 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, and distributed on Thursday by third-class bulk-rate mail. Its slogan was "A Little Good News." Staffers included Debbie Ratcliff, office manager; Tim Rouse, columnist; Jimmy Carpenter, correspondent. Non-commercial classified advertisements run free.

Vanished Early Newspapers

The existence of other newspapers in Hattiesburg has been determined by reading about them in existing newspapers, in Corporation Records and in minutes of town meetings wherein they may have been awarded printing contracts. These include the Hattiesburg Courier (1889), Notice Day Book Gazette (1897), Hattiesburg Herald (1898), Hattiesburg Weekly Times (1898), Hattiesburg Evening Post (1903), Perry County/Forrest County Item (1903), Busy Bee (1907), South Mississippi Herald (1912), Beacon Light (1913) and Hattiesburg Bulletin (1932).

While no copies of the Courier have survived, public records show that H. J. Harris, editor of the Hattiesburg Courier, outbid Williamson in 1889⁸⁰ and was named town printer also in 1890⁸¹ and 1891,⁸² for twenty dollars a year, paid quarterly. Harris may have been successful in 1891 because Williamson changed hats and was sworn in as mayor.⁸³ In 1892,⁸⁴ E. H. Harris was elected public printer for thirty dollars, paid quarterly. In

1893,⁸⁵ H. J. Harris regained the contract for thirty-nine dollars, while, in 1894,⁸⁶ Harris and Harris teamed up to do the public printing for the reduced price of twelve dollars. In 1895 and 1896,⁸⁷ H. J. Harris was awarded town printing again for twenty dollars a year, paid quarterly. The reason for the fluctuation in the price is not known.⁸⁸ But the price for public printing remained constant at twenty dollars in 1897 and 1898, when R. S. Hall was selected to do the public printing in his American Citizen.⁸⁹

Almost nothing is known about the Notice Day Book Gazette. Courthouse records give positive evidence of the existence of only three issues: Vol. 2, No. 32 appeared on Saturday, 20 February 1897; Vol. 2, No. 33, on Saturday, 27 February 1897; Vol. 2, No. 34, Saturday, 6 March 1897, all with N. F. Johnson, publisher. In backtracking, No. 1 of Vol. 2 would have appeared about 18 July 1896, and Vol. 1, No. 1, about 18 July 1895.

Mention of a second Herald, was found for the black community.⁹⁰ It was founded in 1898, the same year another black paper, the Times was founded with T. S. Thigpen as editor, according to McGhee. While no mention of the Herald could be found in public records, the Hattiesburg Weekly Times with Thigpen as publisher was found in the Corporation Records in 1905 and 1907.⁹¹ The Herald is listed in the 1905 Ayer Directory as a Friday publication, with Baptist

affiliation, four pages, 17 by 24, yearly subscription of one dollar and with a circulation of 425.

Next in chronological order of the vanished newspapers is the Hattiesburg Evening Post. Corporation Records show I. W. L. Booth as publisher of this Saturday paper from June-September 1903.

In the 13 January 1903 Progress, mention is made of a new weekly, the Perry County Item, with J. A. Myer as editor. Corporation Records indicate this weekly published some legal printing from January 1904 until November 1908 when it became known as the Forrest County Item and continued to run at least until February 1919. City minutes of 3 January 1905 show the Perry County Item was awarded a contract to do the city printing for one year at one-quarter cent a word. On 8 January 1907 sealed bids from the Item and Progress were identical when opened so a vote was taken with the Progress winning and the new rate being one and one-half cents a word.

Almost nothing is known of the Busy Bee, except that public records indicate it received one legal advertisement, a notice of incorporation, that ran on Thursday, 31 January; 7, 14 and 21 February 1907, in its Vol. 1, No. 4, 5, 6 and 7, and signed for by W. C. Faye, editor.

The South Mississippi Herald likewise received one legal advertisement. It ran on Wednesday, 28 February, 6 and 13 March 1912, Vol. 1, No. 53, 55 and 57, with Lee Motes, publisher.

McGhee also mentions the Beacon Light, a black weekly founded in 1913 and running until 1915. Nothing more is known about this paper.

The weekly Hattiesburg Bulletin was established Monday, 18 January 1932, with Arnold Heidt as publisher, according to Mississippi Newspapers.⁹²

An article in the 13 May 1979 Hattiesburg American announced the 25 May 1979 publication of the Galaxy, an eight-page weekly edited by Arthur R. Magee, then a 25-year-old journalism student at the University of Southern Mississippi. His aim was to provide the black family with all the cultural and entertainment news it needed and protect the interests of the black community, "fighting for civil rights and affirmative action legislation... and raising community standards." No copies were found of the Galaxy.

Hattiesburg News

The Hattiesburg News is considered the predecessor of the Hattiesburg American. According to Mississippi Newspapers, 1805-1940, it was established in 1897, this date being approximated from issues on file.⁹³ However, the News was established in 1907 but traced its roots to 1897 in Hattiesburg because it acquired the Progress. By 8 January 1910, F. D. Lander was editor. On 1 October 1917 the name was changed to the Hattiesburg American and on 13 October 1917 Howard S. Williams was shown as editor, allegedly having bought out Lander who was suspected of pro-German

leanings as the United States embarked on its "great crusade" of World War I to render the world a safe place for democracy.

The News was taken over by the Hattiesburg Printing and Publishing Co. in April 1907 with F. R. Birdsall, H. A. Camp, A. J. Harris and B. McClannahan as owners, publishing on weekday afternoons and Sunday mornings.⁹⁴ The Friday, 6 March 1908 issue, Vol. 1, No. 259, shows Camp as president; Birdsall, vice president; Dinkins, secretary-treasurer; publishing every morning except Monday; offices at 112 Front Street; five cents a copy or fifty cents a month by carrier; member of Associated Press; one cent a word for advertisements, refusing whisky or liquor ads; entered as second-class matter 22 May 1907; official paper of the new County of Forrest; and bearing the Typographical Union label. Elsewhere in this issue Camp appeared as president of Hattiesburg Trust and Banking Co., and the Hattiesburg Typographical Union No. 647 with Wiley Bullard, president, and A. J. Seeley, secretary-treasurer, met at Martin Printing Co. the first Sunday in each month.

According to Price's Illustrated Magazine of Hattiesburg, which was published in 1908:

Although only about nine months old, the Daily News has taken rank as one of the leading dailies of the State. In May, 1907, the paper was established to meet what seemed to be a demand for a morning paper in this rapidly growing city, and it sprang into popular favor almost immediately, and now has a larger circulation than any paper in this section.

Its popularity locally was further attested at the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the new county of Forrest in January of this year, when the Daily News was selected as the official organ of Forrest County for the next four years.

The paper is owned by a stock company, composed largely of local business men, while the paper is under the active management of Mr. F. R. Birdsall, vice president, and Mr. Macey Dinkins, secretary-treasurer of the company.

The office is one of the best equipped in the State, and is a member of the Associated Press. It is the only morning daily in South Mississippi, and has taken front rank as the exponent of the industrial and commercial development of this favored section of Mississippi.⁹⁵

A charter of incorporation was granted to the Hattiesburg News on 16 October 1908. The signers were M. J. Epley, T. R. Gordon, Edgar G. Harris and A. B. Hobbs, printer.⁹⁶

In 1909, F. D. Lander and E. R. Farrell of Columbia, Tennessee, bought the News and either bought the Progress or forced it out of business, with the News adopting the volume number of the Progress. As noted earlier, Seitzler had moved the Progress from Hickory to Hattiesburg in 1897, but continued the numbering of his Newton County Progress, thus commencing with Vol. 7, No. 47, in Hattiesburg. Consequently, the News traced its origins back to the roots of the Progress in Hickory.

It became a daily in 1907. Corporation Records show Vol. 1 of the Hattiesburg Daily News carrying legal advertising in 1907, signed for by Macey Dinkins, secretary-treasurer.⁹⁷ By 1908 Daily was dropped from the title. Farrell appears in Corporation Records as manager of the Hattiesburg News in 1909 and as

publisher in 1910-14; Lander as editor in 1913; and F. D. Lander, Jr., as publisher from 1914-17.⁹⁸

Mention of Frank D. Lander was also found in a front-page New York Times article that concerned the shooting of E. W. Carmack, ex-senator and editor of the Nashville Tennessean.⁹⁹ At that time Lander served as general manager of the Tennessean and was referred to as one of Carmack's intimate friends and business associates. According to the article, shooting on sight had taken the place of the duel to settle political quarrels in the South.

In 1909, competition for city printing was among the Daily Progress, Forrest County Item and Hattiesburg News, with the News winning award of the contract for one-third the state's legal publishing rate on ordinances and notices, and with proceedings published free of charge.¹⁰⁰ For example, on ordinances requiring three insertions, the charge was one cent a word for each first insertion only. This successful proposal was signed by Edgar G. Harris, editor. The former two papers failed with bids at one-half the legal rate. On 12 January 1911, the News outbid the Item by half a cent a word, with Farrell signing the proposal as manager.

The earliest microfilm issue of the Hattiesburg News is Thursday, 1 April 1915, Vol. 19, No. 77, a seven-column broadsheet with Lander as editor. Masthead data show Associated Press membership, publishing every

afternoon except Sunday, official paper of the City of Hattiesburg and County of Forrest, second-class mail matter, subscription at five dollars a year or fifty cents a month, strictly cash in advance, and represented in the foreign field exclusively by S. C. Beckwith Special Agency, offices in New York, St. Louis and Chicago.

The 1915 Ayer Directory lists two News, one appearing evenings except Sunday and one appearing on Friday, both politically Democratic and under the editorship of F. D. Lander and published by Hattiesburg News Company, Inc. A subscription to the daily, established in 1907, was six dollars a year and its circulation was given as 2,500. The Friday paper, established in 1909, cost one dollar a year and no circulation figure was given.

Frank D. Lander, Jr., of the Hattiesburg News appeared in the secretary's report of the Mississippi Press Association convention proceedings dated 18 May 1915 as a new member having paid three dollars dues.

Associated Press

Another way to view the newspapers of Hattiesburg can be summarized from information received from the Associated Press. On 19 September 1905, the Hattiesburg Progress with William Moffett, Jr., owner, was elected to membership. On 8 May 1907, the Hattiesburg News with F. R. Birdsall, owner, applied and was rejected for membership, "after due consideration, and on a vote being taken, it was found that applicant failed of election."

No specific reason was given.

On 17 September 1907, the News with Birdsall was elected, and the Hattiesburg Sunday Progress with Moffett was elected. On 20 April 1908, the News resigned due to inability to meet assessment, and on 9 December 1908, Moffett's Hattiesburg Progress and Hattiesburg Sunday Progress discontinued publication and resigned. On 19 April 1908, the Hattiesburg News with M. J. Epley, owner, was elected to membership. He resigned shortly thereafter and was succeeded by Mort L. Bixler of Hattiesburg News, Inc. On 5 October 1909, Bixler resigned and was succeeded by F. D. Lander of the Hattiesburg Publishing Co.

On 4 October 1917, the Hattiesburg Herald with F. D. Lander, Jr., owner, was elected to membership but on 13 December 1917 discontinued publication and resigned. Lander also resigned membership of the Hattiesburg News and was succeeded by Howard S. Williams, owner, who changed the name of his newly acquired newspaper to Hattiesburg American. On 21 April 1923 Williams was succeeded by G. S. Harmon.

On 23 April 1924 the Hattiesburg Morning Herald applied for membership. G. S. Harmon, member for the Hattiesburg American appeared; applicant failed election. Subscribing to Associated Press service was an exclusive privilege in each city until 1945.

On 4 October 1928 G. S. Harmon was succeeded by Francis S. Harmon for the Hattiesburg American. In

1948 the newspaper paid a basic weekly assessment of \$102.68 as compared to \$451.98 in 1980. In June 1960 ownership was changed to Robert M. Hederman, Jr., and in June 1982, to Gannett Company, Inc. Thus, records show the Hattiesburg American has maintained continuous membership since 1908 when the Hattiesburg News was elected to membership.¹⁰¹

Typographical Union

Charter statistics from the Typographical Union also summarize newspaper activity in Hattiesburg. Originally a charter was issued for Local Union 647 on 3 March 1907, with twenty members.¹⁰² This charter was suspended on 26 December 1934, reinstated on 1 July 1935 with eight unlisted, unknown members, and suspended again on 12 November 1935. The charter was again reissued on 13 May 1936 with eight members.¹⁰³ The charter was finally revoked on 30 October 1982 and jurisdiction was placed with Laurel Typographical Union No. 714.

Summary

In all, forty-two newspapers have been discussed in this chapter. Most were "true" newspapers in the sense of the definition recognized as standard by Emery and Emery. Eight were newspapers but, because of their free-distribution policy, cannot be considered "true" newspapers. One was sometimes "true" and sometimes not "true" because of its frequency of publication. All attempted to make a contribution to the community; some

succeeded for years; others, but a few weeks.

It is recognized that some holes may be found in this work which seem inevitable in piecing together shreds of information from so many different sources. Also inevitable was the contradiction of information from the various sources; sometimes it seemed that the more sources used, the more discrepancies or contradictions were found. Interviews were especially difficult in that, while touted as an excellent primary source of information, factual errors became evident in the adamant recollections of interviewees when verification was sought in secondary sources. No effort was made to pass judgment as to which information might be correct, but the discrepancies are hereby acknowledged.

END NOTES

¹Emery and Emery, The Press and America, p. 4.

²James B. Simpson, comp., Contemporary Quotations (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1964), p. 276.

³*Ibid.*, p. 456.

⁴Virgil Otis Robertson, ed., Facts About Hattiesburg (Hattiesburg, Miss.: Progress Book and Job Print, 1898), p. 7.

⁵Hattiesburg (Mississippi) City Hall. Minute Book A of meetings of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, 1885-92, meeting of 19 January 1885, p. 6. (Handwritten.)

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁷New Augusta (Mississippi) City Hall. Minute Book 1 of meetings of the Board of Supervisors, meeting of 7 July 1884, p. 264. (Handwritten.)

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 289.

⁹R. H. Henry, Editors I Have Known Since the Civil War (New Orleans: E. S. Upton Printing Co., 1922), p. 179.

¹⁰Located at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

¹¹*Ibid.*

¹²Hattiesburg American, 20 May 1919, p. 8.

¹³Forrest County Chancery Clerk's office maintains records of these incorporations along

with their subsequent "proof-of-publication" notices. This study is not concerned with the incorporations of the businesses per se unless, of course, they were newspaper businesses.

¹⁴Hattiesburg (Mississippi)
Chancery Clerk's Office. Corporation Record, Second District, Perry County, No. 1, p. 2. (Handwritten.)

¹⁵New Augusta (Mississippi)
Chancery and Circuit Clerk's Office. General Docket, No. 1, Perry County, p. 105. (Handwritten.)

¹⁶Daniel J. Boorstin, The Americans: The National Experience (New York: Random House, 1965; reprint ed., New York: Vintage Books, 1965), p. 129.

¹⁷Hattiesburg (Mississippi) City Hall. Minute Book A, p. 25. (Handwritten.)

¹⁸Ibid., p. 45.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 48.

²⁰New Augusta (Mississippi) City Hall. Minute Book, Supervisor's Court, p. 20.

²¹Hattiesburg (Mississippi) City Hall. Minute Book A, p. 64.

²²The former were found courtesy of Doris Davis and Andrea Faye Robinson, reporters, and the latter was borrowed from Gabi and Alec Clayton, editors-publishers.

²³Since Mary Oliphant was the only woman editor-proprietor encountered throughout the research, an effort was made to obtain additional information on her. She could not be found in the census. On 8 April 1903 the Daily Progress reported a J. R. Oliphant, editor of the Poplarville Free Press being in town. The 1905 city directory shows a Mrs. M. A. Oliphant, widow, residing at 659 Main.

²⁴ Democrat, 4 January 1894.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Efforts were not successful to obtain copies of ownership statements required for second-class privileges. These records would have been a

valuable secondary source to determine longevity, publishers, press runs and other helpful information on the early Hattiesburg newspapers, but before 1934 these postal records were routinely destroyed with the permission of the United States Congress, according to correspondence from the National Archives, 12 April 1985.

²⁸Mrs. E. H. Beaumont of Petal lent this newspaper pointing out that the inside pages had been lost.

²⁹An original copy of the very first issue published in Hattiesburg was located courtesy of Mrs. Herman V. Bennett of Jackson, along with part of another issue, courtesy of Mrs. Sue Hatten of Hattiesburg. A short microfilm run is available at the University of Southern Mississippi Library.

³⁰A. J. Brown, History of Newton County, Mississippi, from 1834 to 1894 (Jackson, Miss.: Clarion-Ledger Co., 1894) and R. H. Henry, Editors I Have Known Since the Civil War (New Orleans: E. S. Upton Printing Co., 1922).

³¹Brown, History of Newton County, Mississippi, p. 200.

³²Ibid., p. 204.

³³"To the Public," Hattiesburg Progress, 20 April 1897.

³⁴Hattiesburg Progress, 7 August 1902.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Ibid., 17 October 1902.

³⁷Ibid., 3 November 1902.

³⁸Telephone interview with Richard Brady, Mergenthaler Linotype Division, Melville, New York, 20 May 1985.

³⁹Henry T. Price, "The Daily Progress," Illustrated Magazine of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Forrest County (1908):77.

⁴⁰Hattiesburg Progress, 23 December 1902.

⁴¹Ibid., 8 November 1902.

⁴²Ibid.

- 43 Ibid., 15 December 1902.
- 44 Ibid., 18 March 1903.
- 45 Ibid., 24 January 1903.
- 46 Ibid.
- 47 Ibid., 11 May 1903.
- 48 Ibid., 24 January 1903.
- 49 Ibid., 2 January 1903.
- 50 Ibid., 9 January 1903.
- 51 Ibid., 11 February 1903.
- 52 Ibid., 10 February 1903.
- 53 Ibid., 18 August 1903.
- 54 Ibid., 11 October 1902.
- 55 Ibid., 14 January 1903.
- 56 Ibid., 12 June 1902.
- 57 Ibid., 29 July 1903.
- 58 United States Census, Perry County, Mississippi, 1900.
- 59 Hattiesburg American, 5 August 1903.
- 60 Price, Illustrated Magazine, 77-79.
- 61 Telephone interview with Blake Cress, Geiger Printing and Supply Company, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 20 May 1985.
- 62 This issue was located at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.
- 63 Hattiesburg Progress, 10 December 1902.
- 64 Ibid., 12 November 1902.
- 65 This issue was located at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson,

Mississippi.

⁶⁶On microfilm at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

⁶⁷Hattiesburg American, 28 February 1982, sec. E, p. 7. Nevertheless, the Eye does fit the Emerys' definition and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has classified it as a newspaper.

⁶⁸Austin C. Dobbins, Gainess S. Dobbins: Pioneer in Religious Education (Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1981), p. 18-19.

⁶⁹*Ibid.*, p. 22-23.

⁷⁰Saturday Evening Eye, 19 November 1904.

⁷¹*Ibid.*, 16 December 1905.

⁷²A part of the Friday, 26 June 1914 issue, was found courtesy of Mrs. H. F. McWilliams, 217 Cambridge Drive, Hattiesburg. Since Page 1 is missing, no illustration is included, but the masthead is intact.

⁷³An extant copy of this Martin paper was found courtesy of Mrs. Mary Hirschenhofer, via Mrs. Herman V. Bennett, 540 Mockingbird Lane, Jackson, and was dated Thursday, 25 February 1932, Vol. 3, No. 3.

⁷⁴Only one extant copy was found, on microfilm at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, dated 23 August 1935, Vol. 1, No. 17.

⁷⁵South Mississippi Weekly, 16 September 1982, p. 2.

⁷⁶*Ibid.*, 30 September 1982, p. 1.

⁷⁷Interview with Alec and Gabi Clayton, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 18 December 1984.

⁷⁸Alec Clayton, "Everything For Everybody," Persons, 1-15 January 1978, p. 6.

⁷⁹With Vol 4, No. 34, of 16 July 1981.

⁸⁰Hattiesburg (Mississippi) City Council, Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Book A, p. 121. (Handwritten.)

81 Ibid., p. 273.

82 Ibid., p. 312.

83 Ibid., p. 311.

84 Ibid., p. 365.

85 Hattiesburg (Mississippi) City Council, Minute Book B, p. 32. (Handwritten.)

86 Ibid., p. 137.

87 Ibid., p. 250.

88 No extant copies of the Hattiesburg Courier could be located.

89 Hattiesburg Minute Book, p. 494.

90 Flora C. McGhee, "Mississippi Black Newspapers: Their History, Content, and Future" (Ph.D. dissertation in progress, University of Southern Mississippi, 1985), p. 89.

91 Forrest County Chancery Clerk's Office, Corporation Records, 1905, 1907.

92 Mississippi Newspapers, 1805-1940 (Jackson: Mississippi Historical Records Survey, 1942), p. 96. At that time (1942), issues were seen on file in the office of the Purvis Booster. On 27 November 1984 a trip to the office of its successor, the Lamar County News, revealed no such issues on file and the editor, G. B. Herring, Jr., had no recollection of the Hattiesburg Bulletin.

93 Ibid., p. 98.

94 Hattiesburg American Employee Information Handbook (Hattiesburg: Hattiesburg American, 1983), p. 2, and Corporation Record, Perry County, No. 1, p. 260.

95 Price, Illustrated Magazine, p. 62.

96 Corporation Record, Forrest County, Book 1, p. 23.

97 Corporation Record, Perry County, No. 1, p. 239.

98 Corporation Record, Forrest County, No. 1.

⁹⁹Article dated 11 November 1908.

¹⁰⁰Hattiesburg (Mississippi) City Hall, Municipal Minutes, Book E, p. 571.

¹⁰¹Correspondence from Associated Press, New York, New York, 28 November 1984, 5 June 1985.

¹⁰²L. F. Adam, J. G. Bennett, W. P. Bullard, S. M. Cooper, A. Macey Dinkins, G. M. Gullett, E. G. Harris, N. O. Heudon, A. B. Hobbs, W. H. Hunt, C. C. Johnson, H. E. Johnston, G. F. Long, S. B. Martin, J. A. Meyer, James Naton, T. L. Prayton, A. J. Seeley, T. E. Warren and L. H. Zehnder. Similar spellings of the names of most of these people may be found in Appendix B.

¹⁰³H. M. Allen, C. P. Geiger, Y. C. Hardell, H. B. Heweter, L. M. Heweter, Y. E. Pickeus, T. Lee Prater and W. L. Thompson.

CHAPTER IV

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

Introduction

The longest-running newspaper in Hattiesburg has been the American. This chapter covers the present-day Hattiesburg newspaper from its beginnings as the American in 1917 up to and including its acquisition by the Gannett Company of Rochester, New York, in 1982. Though some of the years overlap, they are divided roughly into segments according to changes in ownership and editorship with emphasis upon journalistic endeavors, personal characteristics and business management procedures.

The Williams Years, 1917-1923

When it went from a weekly to a daily in 1907, the Hattiesburg News began renumbering volumes. On 16 October 1908 a charter of incorporation was approved.¹ On 1 October 1917 the name was changed to Hattiesburg American and Howard S. Williams (see Illustration 44-M) appeared on the masthead as editor and manager, having bought out the former owner who was suspected of alleged pro-German leanings. No timely printed evidence or primary source information of this allegation was found. A filler item in the

24 April 1984 American stated:

In 1917, during World War I, the owner of the then Hattiesburg News was suspected by some local citizens as being pro-German. When he sold the paper to Howard Williams that year, Williams re-named it the Hattiesburg American to give it a more favorable image.²

Williams was financially assisted in the purchase by Helen Floyd, his sister-in-law, and by J. O. Rea, a banker.³ Williams acquired three-fourths of the company stock.⁴ No further record of Landers' existence in Hattiesburg was found. H. S. Stevens, president, and J. O. Rea, secretary, made application for amendment to the charter to change the name from News to American on 7 December 1917.⁵ The Hattiesburg American continued the volume and number of the Hattiesburg News, thus tracing its roots back to the relocation of Seitzler's Progress to Hattiesburg in 1897.

Williams was no newcomer to journalism. At 18 he was a cub reporter on the Anniston (Alabama) Hot Blast. After serving as a volunteer with Company D, First Alabama National Guard, in the Spanish-American War (1898), he returned as city editor of the Hot Blast for a year. He helped organize the Anniston Star; was on the staff of the Birmingham Age Herald; served as political reporter, Birmingham News; city editor, Monterrey (Mexico) News; and established the Torreon (Mexico) Star, first American newspaper north of Monterrey in Old Mexico. He was affiliated with the Associated Press

in Mexico City and Atlanta and had worked as city editor of the Jackson Daily News.⁶

The first extant issue of Williams' Hattiesburg American states in the flag: "Succeeding the Hattiesburg News and the Hattiesburg Herald," but these words were dropped after the 14 February 1918 issue. This earliest available issue sold for five cents and is an eight-page, seven-column broadsheet with "full Associated Press leased wire."⁷

Besides the American name, Williams' patriotic fervor continued onto the editorial page where an unfurled American flag headed editorials. From 1 March to 26 April 1919, he ran a news page for soldiers stationed at nearby Camp Shelby. The nameplate read, The Shelby American, "The Shelby Soldier's Newspaper; The Soldier--First, Last and Always." It included news of promotions, recruits, entertainment and recreation. This special page was reduced and shared a page with sports news. (Much later, in 1974, the American would publish a similar paper for the nearby community of Petal.)

The Hattiesburg American was represented in the foreign field by S. C. Beckwith Special Agency with offices in New York, St. Louis, Chicago and Detroit. Founded by Samuel C. Beckwith of Maryland in 1880, the agency secured national advertising for the American. According to the 20 May 1919 special edition, Beckwith had 22 solicitors among its 55 employees, 30 of whom

worked in New York City. Beckwith claimed national advertising was on a boom such as the country had never before seen and predicted that in 1919 national advertising would beat all records with \$3 million in sales. In Hattiesburg subscriptions by carrier were 65 cents a month or seven dollars a year in advance. By mail outside the carriers' limit, subscriptions were 50 cents a month, five dollars a year in advance. The 1919 Ayer Directory showed 4,160 circulation.

During his years as editor and manager, Williams' Journalistic coup was to persuade the Mississippi Press Association to hold its annual meeting in Hattiesburg. Where normally he was putting out an eight-page paper, as a result of this occasion, on 20 May 1919, he published "The Mississippi Press Association Special Edition of the Hattiesburg American," sixty-four pages of copy and illustrations divided into eight sections, all still for a nickel: News (Pages 1-8), Mississippi Press Association (Pages 9-16), Club and Social Activities of the City (Pages 17-24), History of a Newspaper in the Making (Pages 25-32), Reminiscences of Old Hattiesburg (Pages 33-40), Ecclesiastical and Fraternal Affairs of the City (Pages 41-48), Civic and Commercial Institutions (Pages 49-56), and City Famous as Educational Center (Pages 57-64).

Apparently the MPA had met in Hattiesburg previously for, in his welcoming address, M. P. L. Love,

on behalf of the mayor, stated, "I recall with pleasure the time, not many years ago, when Hattiesburg had the pleasure of entertaining the Mississippi Press Association. . . ." Elsewhere in this same issue under the title, "Events and Happenings During the Past Twelve Years in Hattiesburg," appeared reprinted news clippings from the old Hattiesburg News and new Hattiesburg American:

May 19, 1907: The first issue of the old Hattiesburg News appeared. On October 1, 1917, the Hattiesburg News was absorbed by the Hattiesburg American and although the name of the paper was changed and a new management took charge of its affairs, it is considered in the newspaper world as the same newspaper.⁸

May 19, 1908: The 43rd annual session of the Mississippi Press Association opened today with able addresses from President B. T. Hobbs, R. L. Bennett, Mayor J. D. Donald and Hon. R. H. Henry.

The following committees were appointed at the meeting: Credentials--P. K. Mayers, Robert Lewis, W. H. Hawkins. Auditing--T. L. Carlisle, T. J. Ford, William Moffett, Jr. President's Address--H. E. Blakeslee, J. A. Richardson, Edgar N. Harris. Necrology--R. H. Henry, Mrs. M. L. Turnage, W. D. Caulifield, C. E. Cunningham, J. L. Gillespie. Resolutions--J. L. Gillespie, H. E. Blakeslee, M. W. Sharp, Charles M. Scherer, T. L. Bettesworth.

F. F. Phillips, of the Hattiesburg Commercial Club, made an address before the visiting editors this morning. He recited the marvelous growth of Hattiesburg in the past few years.⁹

Williams' special Mississippi Press Association edition (see Illustration 25) contains at least fourteen news or feature articles of a journalistic nature including items on the convention agenda, activities for wives, newly elected officers and the president's address. The MPA president, incidentally, was Charles N. Harris, Jr., of the Canton Herald, whose grandfather

owned and published the American Citizen, one of Hattiesburg's first newspapers.

Among the feature stories in this special edition is one on Hattiesburg Local Typographical Union 647 (32 column inches in length), by M. E. Regan, president, stating the union had been organized 27 April 1907 in the printing establishment of S. B. Martin.¹⁰

Besides Regan as president, other officers in 1919 were B. S. Dever, vice president; T. B. Geiger, secretary-treasurer; and Earl A. McLane, sergeant-at-arms. This 1919 article also stated that the International Typographical Union had 900 chapters and 80,000 members in the United States and Canada.

The National Typographical Union had been formed in 1850 and became the ITU with Canada in 1852. In 1892 it established an old-age pension, mortuary benefits and a home for aged and ill printers in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Its goals included an eight-hour workday, recognition of the equality of the sexes in the industry, improved sanitary conditions in printing establishments, better educational and moral standards for youth entering the field, elimination of child-labor abuses, responsible wages and better standard of living, and arbitration of disputes to eliminate strikes.

Another special-edition feature article is entitled "Story of a Newspaper in the Making," with subhead, "Hattiesburg's daily paper, what is in it and

how it gets news; how it has achieved the distinction of being the leading newspaper in the State of Mississippi" (49 inches), by W. L. "Pete" Maher, news editor. Maher related that the Hattiesburg American is an outgrowth of the old Hattiesburg News and Hattiesburg Herald, having been formed as a stock company in October 1917, buying out the interests of the old owners of the News. With Williams as head, the first job was to install an Associated Press wire in the newsroom:

The most important change in the transformation from a small provincial country newspaper served with only a "pony service" of 500 to 1,000 words by wire daily to 15,000 and when the world is pulsating with great events the service is unlimited.

Williams also obtained membership in a picture service from the Central Press Association, Cleveland, Ohio, and had sole right to use other features including "On the Spur of the Moment" by Roy K. Moulton for the editorial page, a children's story called "The Wishing Plane" by Willis Winter, serial fiction by Zoe Beckley, Jack Keene's "Sport Snap Shots," Mrs. Morton's "Household Hints" and Bushnell's cartoon service. His problems as stated in 1919 were not unlike those of newspapers today--developing ways to increase circulation, to handle delinquent subscribers and to obtain proper compensation for advertising space.¹¹

Still another feature is called "Running Down a Story Previous to Press Time for American Readers" with subhead "No efforts spared to get latest news in final

edition. Here's an imaginary murder" (60 inches), by G. Hilton Butler, city editor. One without a byline is called "What the Hattiesburg American Has Done; What It is Doing Now; What It Will Do in the Future" (19 inches), in which was written:

Since the Hattiesburg American, on October 1, 1917, issued its first edition down to the present, it has strongly and aggressively supported every patriotic campaign, every progressive civic movement, every religious campaign, every educational campaign that has been undertaken here.

The American has been steadfast in its editorial policy of standing for good, clean administration of laws, for clean living, for civic upbuilding, for the highest moral standards.

In every Liberty Loan, Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army, United War Work Campaign, and similar "drives," it has given, and gladly, too, of its valuable space to assist in putting Hattiesburg and Forrest County "over the top." It has done these things for an unselfish motive, believing that the government needed its services, which were cheerfully tendered. . . .

The American believes it has a mission to perform and it is trying to live up to its opportunities. It is an optimistic, a "booster" newspaper. It has pitched its editorials upon a progressive plane, and it always seeks to keep abreast of the times. . . .

The Hattiesburg American was the first newspaper in the State of Mississippi to issue an extra telling of the signing of the armistice. That bit of news cost the paper more than \$200, for its leased telegraph wires, which were kept open day and night, and men in all departments, although weary from loss of sleep, clung tenaciously to their posts until the joyful news came.¹²

Williams wrote a feature entitled "Editor

Williams Tells What He Thinks of the Men and Women Who Help Him Publish the American" (18 inches):

One of the secrets of the success of the Hattiesburg American is the fact that every employee, from desk men in the editorial rooms, from confidential men in the business, down to the humblest porters about the American building, have always been loyal and faithful in the discharge of

their duties, many times making personal sacrifices of time and inclinations in the interest of the newspaper.

It has been my policy in managing the destinies of the American to employ only the highest type of ladies and gentlemen and to secure them we have adhered to the policy of paying large salaries.

It has been my policy to employ union men in the mechanical department, and it is a pleasure and a privilege to state that they have been faithful at all times, "on the job" every minute, always ready, willing and anxious to cheerfully respond to any emergency call, such as often arises in the making of a daily newspaper.¹³

His editorial, "The Press of Mississippi" (31 inches), a greeting to assembled editors, was illustrated with crossed scissors and quill pen, and said in part:

It is not too much to say that it was the press of the State which aroused the citizenry from their somnolent condition and convinced them of the emminence of danger to all liberties and the dire consequences to the civilization of the world should they fail to arm themselves in time to meet the cohorts of the Hun after the last barrier of defenders had been swept away in Europe and America stood alone.

It was the press--the editors and journalists of the State of Mississippi which more than any other force at work among the people helped to defeat the campaign of the sentimentalists and pacifists in this State, who unconsciously worked for their country's ruin and ultimate vassalage to an all-conquering Germany when they lent themselves as willing agents or victims of the insidious German propaganda directed by Count Bernstorff from his lair in Washington. . . .

It is the glory of this Association of the State they represent that every managing editor, every news editor of the State was absolutely loyal. These men lent themselves as willing servants of patriotism to spread the ideals of duty and self-sacrifice among the people, and it is the pride of the Association today that many of their number volunteered in the fighting ranks.

The stories of the war were carefully edited for the convenience and instruction of thousands of readers. . . .¹⁴

Another editorial pertaining to journalism was

"The Mission of the Press" (29 inches), by Flores Ford
(special contributor to the American and wife of W. L.
Maher, Williams' news editor):

The press of the free people stands ever beside
the free church and the free school as one of the
three greatest factors in the development of an
enlightened and Christian civilization. . . .

The enlightenment of the public at any cost, at
any sacrifice, is the supreme mission of the press to
the world and to Christian civilization.

The public and the financial interests which have
of late years superseded individual ownership, will
do well to come to a better understanding of the long
years of professional training which has never been
successfully reduced to the curriculum of a school
necessary to develop a really valuable public servant
in any of the news departments and the work and
abilities of the men who really make their
papers.¹⁵

Each department within the newspaper was written
up and its staff photographed under such headlines as
"Putting News of the Day into Print, Where News is
Gathered and Those who Handle It," which stated that the
editorial department consisted of Williams as editor;
Walter Lowrie Mayer, news and telegraph editor; Mrs.
Andrew Mac.Jones, society, church and movie editor; G.
Butler Hilton, city editor; an agricultural editor; state
editor; and Mrs. Paul N. Carter, proofreader. The
society editor "gets the news and if there is any that
escapes her, especially a dance, it gets by in an
aeroplane."¹⁶

"Where the Type is Set and the Paper Printed"
stated that James Hardee presided over the mechanical
department, with Camp Geiger, Ludlow operator and ad man;
Wayne C. Waldron as makeup and pressman; E. A. MacLane,

John T. Phillips and M. E. Regan as Intertype operators. "As 'copy' comes pouring down the chute, the foreman passes it to his assistants, who in turn convert it into leaden conveyances of thought in the shape of Intertype lines for ordinary reading matter, or to the Ludlow operator for display lines in advertising space and large headlines to more clearly point out the news to the readers."¹⁷

These were followed by stories on the business office and circulation department under the banner head, "How Money Comes in and Papers Go Out." The business staff consisted of Thomas St. John, auditor and cashier; F. L. Sugrue, advertising specialist; J. B. Storey, bookkeeper; and Miss Frances Delsing, stenographer.

"Here's your Hattiesburg American, just from the press, with the latest news of the day," is the daily song of the "bustling newsies" employed by the paper. Milton Shelby Pickett was in charge of the circulation department and claimed the circulation was genuine with no free copies. Paid circulation on 1 October 1917 was 2,206, and on 1 April 1919 was 4,020. Eighteen carrier boys serviced Hattiesburg exclusive of the four who sold the paper at Camp Shelby. The latter were supervised by S. vandenBerg. In Hattiesburg the area covered was:

North Main Street for two miles; Columbia Road to Collier's Dairy; Hardy Street past Mississippi Normal College to R. J. McCaughey's; West Pine Street to Tatum's at Bonhomie; South Bay and Edwards to the Mississippi Woman's College on to Burkitt's Creek, two miles; River Avenue around the loop through

Harvey and Petal using both the upper and lower bridges over Leaf River; the colored section out Mobile Street to each colored settlement in the city. We have an especially good rural circulation that, of course, goes by mail.

As to reaching South Mississippi, we do that ahead of any other daily in most instances, and our circulation is increasing at a highly satisfactory rate in South Mississippi towns. Our outlets are the Gulf & Ship Island Railroad, north to Jackson and south to Gulfport, including its two branch roads, one from Saratoga to Laurel and the other from Mendenhall to Maxie; the Southern Railroad and its connections north to Meridian, and south to New Orleans; the Mississippi Central from Hattiesburg to Natchez; the G.M.&N. from Hattiesburg to Mobile and from Beaumont to Laurel.¹⁸

Other circulation personnel besides Pickett as manager were Clyde Praytor, assistant circulation manager; Henry Hackney, mailroom; and S. vandenBerg who was in charge of Camp Shelby circulation and through whose efforts daily circulation jumped from 200 to 6,000. Under T. B. Geiger in the job shop, the American's side partner, were John W. Gibson and Andy DeMouey.

Photographs of the newsroom show Williams' private office (see Illustration 26) and the newsroom (Illustration 27) with four desks. Nameplates on three of the desks read, left to right, Mr. Maher, Mr. Hurt and G. Hilton Butler. Calendars are turned to April 1919.¹⁹

Compared to some other Hattiesburg American editors, Williams' tenure was relatively short-lived. Something happened from 29 November to 26 December 1922 that changed his life completely--he was converted to Christianity. According to his son, Williams loved golf,



Illustration 26. Editor's Private Office, 1919
Howard S. Williams

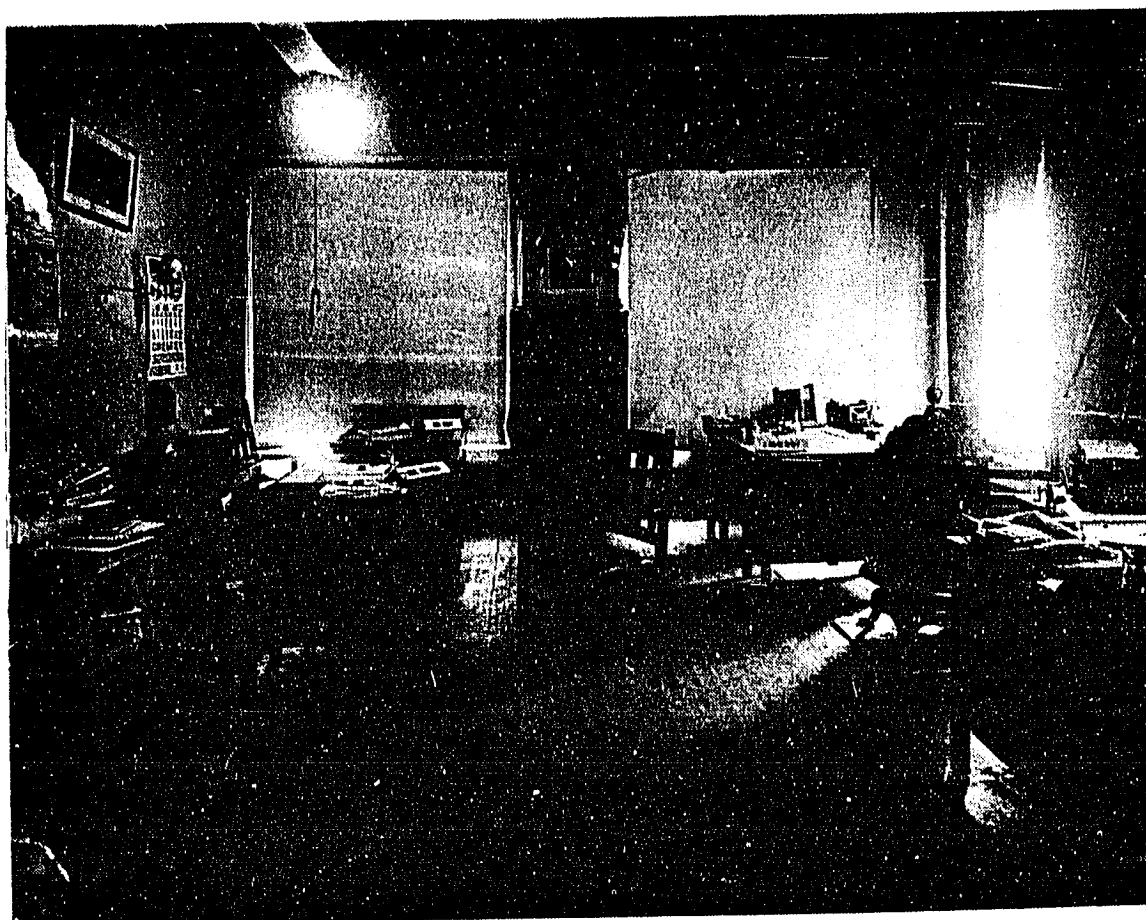


Illustration 27. Hattiesburg American Newsroom
1919

card playing, drinking, dancing, gambling and had an eye for the ladies. Late one night during this period Williams came home and got the boy out of bed to witness his gathering up all the whiskey bottles in the house and taking them down to the Gordon Creek bridge where he smashed them against the superstructure of the bridge and threw them into the water.²⁰ Another

highly reliable source, who preferred to remain anonymous, said Williams allegedly even kept a mistress in a local hotel and, after his conversion, went with Mrs. Williams to give the mistress money to pay her way to go back to her home in Kansas City.

Williams' conversion came as a result of a revival conducted by Gipsy Smith, Jr. The layout of the American also was converted. Across Page 1 of every single issue were banner headlines proclaiming the Gipsy Smith, Jr., revival. According to Williams, Jr., his father had been forewarned by Frederick Sullens, editor of the Jackson Daily News, that Gipsy was on his way to Hattiesburg and that if Williams didn't watch out, he would be converted. Sullens had just become active in religious work, having heard the evangelist preach in Jackson. Sullens apparently traveled to Hattiesburg with Gipsy where, as a fellow journalist, he collaborated with Williams on the American. Sullens' byline appears on the first six lead revival stories for the American; Williams', on the remaining seventeen. Headlines read

"Audience of 7,000 Heard Gipsy Smith," "Gipsy Smith Emphasizes Repentance," "Audience is Stirred to Soul-Depths" and "Gipsy Smith, Jr., in Action at Big Hattiesburg Tabernacle Where Thousands Nightly Gather." Every sermon was printed in its entirety on Page 1, along with boxed excerpts, sidebars, pictures, editorials.

On 6 December 1922 an article announced that Sullens would testify on 9 December to his personal religious experiences over the radio phone of the Atlanta Journal, speaking to half a million people and inviting readers to hear him at the Elks Hall radio station maintained by J. C. Taylor on the station at the Davidson Company's third floor. By revival's end, according to the police chief, the 23 services (22 at night and one during the day) had been attended by 92,317 people and the chief had handled the parking of 9,883 cars with no accidents and only one theft--which was solved almost immediately.²¹ Thereafter, the American returned to its pre-revival layout format averaging five tombstoned heads across the top of Page 1.

On 8 December 1922, Williams printed the following editorial entitled "God Forgive Me for Every Wrong I May Have Done" in the American:

To Everybody, With No Mental Reservation:
May God forgive me for any wrong, intentional or unintentional, that I may have done anyone. May He give me grace to undo the wrongs which I may have done. If, through my editorials in criticism of public officials or private citizens, I have wounded any heart, I hereby humbly ask forgiveness of them and God.

I will not disclose any information regarding what I, as a sinner or a newspaper man, have received regarding infraction of the liquor laws up to today. But in the future I shall feel free to use such information as I may see fit, guided by His grace. I believe it would be dishonorable for me to "turn up" anybody that I may know to have violated the law up to today, and I will not, though a thousand grand juries call me before them. Mind you, I said UP TO TODAY. My prayer is that those who have been with me in evil days may see the vision of Jesus on the Cross that came to me last night. I love everybody today, have given my heart, body and soul to Him, and if I can lead any of my friends to Him I shall do so. I am trusting Him implicitly in directing the writing of this editorial. I ask the prayers of Christian people that I may stand steadfast. I wired my mother today that I had been born again. I could not lie to her.

I have been an influence for evil here. God has told me so. But I know I will be an influence for good in the future, because He told me so in the wee small hours of this morning.

From this day forward my newspaper is dedicated to the service of God, and will be conducted as I believe He would have me run it.

I will not surrender any human convictions, but by His grace will deal in a kinder and tenderer way with my fellow men and women.

God give me strength and power to keep this resolution.

I have been born again.

To God I give the honor, the praise and the glory.

On this same day, 8 December 1922, W. O.

Kincannon reported that, at 10:15 a.m., Williams assembled all the printers, business employees and editorial staff in the newsroom and, while the telephones rang unanswered, Williams announced publicly his decision to dedicate his life, his paper, his all to the service of God.²² He declared that no convictions would be surrendered; the paper would not be converted into a religious daily to the destruction of its news value, but that it would be a servant of God and its

policy would be to promote the Kingdom of heaven. Employees were urged to attend every religious service they wanted to and their pay would continue just as though they were engaged with their duties. Any delay to the paper from absenteeism to attend religious services would be overlooked entirely. Kincannon concludes, "There was not a man or woman in the office who was not profoundly impressed with the sincerity of the words that came from the lips of the editor, and the completeness of his surrender to God."²³

On 22 February 1923 Howard S. Williams announced on Page 1 that he had sold his controlling interest in the Hattiesburg American to the Rev. G. S. Harmon.

According to Harmon's son:

One day in the fall of 1922 father stopped at the plant of Hattiesburg's daily newspaper, Hattiesburg American, to get a piece of equipment needed for a commercial printing job in the little Poplarville plant. Out of a clear sky, the owner and editor, Howard S Williams, said to him: "Preacher, why don't you buy this paper and have a real vehicle for your crusading?" Father gaily asked the price and on being told he could have the whole shebang for \$75,000, took a dollar bill out of his pocket, handed it to Howard Williams, and left the plant with a 60-day option for its purchase. He was already over his head financially with the weeklies. But the incurable optimist and truly astounding promoter undertook to achieve the seemingly impossible.²⁴

After the sale, Williams did not know what he would do, buy another newspaper or go into another business. He made the announcement from Orlando, Florida, where he was resting in a sanatorium "to restore his health after 28 strenuous years in newspaper work, resulting in a nervous

breakdown."²⁵ During this period, Walter N. Hurt acted as managing editor, having been associated with Williams for five years.

Williams bought a large gospel tent, a piano and a few hymn books, and in August 1923, at the age of 45, began a new 30-year career as a lay minister traveling across the country preaching.²⁶ Eventually he settled down and ultimately retired from the Petal Presbyterian Church as a fully ordained minister. One highlight of his evangelistic efforts that gained national recognition came in May 1925 when he calmed a dangerous situation of mob violence and labor unrest in the coal-mining community of Herrin, Illinois. Known as "Bloody Williamson" County, the New York Times called it "a smoldering mine of political, racial, religious and just plain old-time feud hatreds . . . while bayonets and machine guns for the eighth time in four years keep a temporary peace."²⁷

The Harmon-St. John Years, 1923-1968

The Rev. Gus Shaw Harmon (see Illustration 44-D) had retired after 25 years as a Methodist minister when he acquired control of the American in February 1923 and became its editor and manager. Immediately prior to the acquisition, he had served as commissioner of Methodist Hospital in Hattiesburg, where at pistol point, he single-handedly prevented the seizure of Casey E. Jones, a patient-prisoner, by a masked mob.²⁸

Nevertheless, following his release from the hospital, the mob did successfully lynch Jones for the fatal shooting of a local woman.

Walter N. Hurt, managing editor, wrote the news article introducing Harmon to the Hattiesburg community. Harmon was from Clarke County and had edited the Jasper County Review at Paulding and The Free Press at Poplarville shortly after World War I. In the announcement, Hurt quoted Harmon as saying his journalistic platform would be the same as the declaration made by the New York World, which proclaimed itself to be "an institution that shall always fight for progress and reform, never tolerate injustice or corruption, always remain devoted to the public welfare, never be satisfied with merely printing news, always drastically independent, never afraid to attack wrong."²⁹

In a front-page lead story in the 14 October 1926 American, Dr. Harmon unexpectedly shocked the whole community by printing "Editor of American Makes Confession:"

For three years and eight months I have stood before you in strategic and prominent position as Editor of the Hattiesburg American, seeking to give to the public a newspaper filled only with wholesome news and dominated by sound and helpful editorial policy, and which could be read in the homes of the people without hesitation and which would serve the whole people in a wholesome fashion and contribute to the onward march of this great section. The public has given undoubted proof of their approval of the paper and of its policies. The circulation has been tremendously increased, its business enlarged, and

the paper is read daily over a wide territory.

My friends and the public will be shocked to have me come to them with this sad valedictory as editor of this great paper. I have today severed all official or editorial connection with the Hattiesburg American and henceforth that great paper which I took over from my worthy predecessor, will be edited and published by others.

I have fallen into a great sin in the stress of personal financial obligations in my effort to work out the tremendous financial burden which I took on myself when I acquired the dominating stock in the corporation which publishes the Hattiesburg American. Under the stress of the moment, possessed of a psychology that I cannot now myself explain, I used in unauthorized manner the names of two distinguished citizens of this section who have been my loyal friends for years and obtained money unlawfully upon their unauthorized indorsement of my paper. Unable to refinance these obligations, amounting to \$35,000.00 all told, through the usual channels, I was confronted with the enormity of my offense, made a clean breast of the whole matter to the friends involved, and by the use of every asset I could command, even to the roof over my head, have heretofore made full restitution.

But restitution and confession to my friends will not obtain forgiveness from my Lord. I must make a public confession. So I come to you with full confession of my guilt and with a bleeding heart because of my sin, against my friends, my family, the public whose confidence I have valued in the past and am distressed beyond measure to lose, and my sin, above all, to Him in whose ministry I have for these many years sought to teach and preach and serve. I come to you brokenhearted in the latter days of my life on account of this great departure, imploring your forgiveness as in the dead hours of the night I have implored the forgiveness of my Heavenly Father. But whether you find it in your hearts to forgive me or not, may I plead that you deal charitably with that precious family upon whose honor there is no stain and whom I trust will not be held accountable before your hearts and minds for the sin of a husband and father.

But what is left of my life, which can be but a mere remnant, I promise you before God and His Son shall be devoted as far as in me lies to the repairing of this great wrong.

Tomorrow morning I shall go before the Grand Jury of Forrest County, now in session, and lay before them the facts of my offense, and place myself at the disposal of the law. May I not have your prayers in whatever lot shall be mine henceforth? The future is

dark enough without the harsh censure of those who have been my friends or my foes, but I stand prepared to accept whatever is my due. But the load henceforth will be lightened to me, now that I have confessed my error before the whole world.

Upon learning the situation, Williams telegraphed his condolences to Dr. Harmon and offered him the full and free use of his bank account to make restitution. This offer proved unnecessary since Dr. Harmon's family was able to meet the financial obligation with a loan.³⁰

On 4 November 1926, the New York Times reported that Harmon was under indictment in the Forrest County Circuit Court on a charge of forging the names of several Hattiesburg businessmen to notes totaling \$35,000.³¹ His attorneys intended to offer an insanity plea, but on 9 November 1926 the Times reported that Harmon had been sentenced to serve ten years after pleading guilty on each of seven indictments charging forgery to buy the newspaper. He was sent to the state prison farm at Parchman.

Dr. J. M. Buchanan, former superintendent of East Mississippi Insane Hospital at Meridian, stated that Dr. Harmon was legally sane, but was suffering from impulses over which he had no control.³² On 20 May 1929 he was allowed to seek treatment at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, where he died of pneumonia on 3 June 1929.³³ A letter dated 18 June 1929 from Dr. Ralph G. Mills for the Mayo Clinic to F. S.

Harmon concluded that after examination of the brain the doctor was confident that his (Gus Harmon's) actions had an organic and not a criminal basis.³⁴

Control of the American had already been relinquished to his older son, Francis (see Illustration 44-C).

Francis Stuart Harmon held a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from the University of Virginia, Bachelor of Laws from Harvard, and Doctor of Laws from Millsaps. He had many interests besides journalism and the Hattiesburg newspaper. From 1924-25 he served as assistant attorney general of Mississippi and in 1926 was the first to announce his Democratic candidacy for the Eighth Congressional District in which he was defeated. Francis left the American in 1929 and left Hattiesburg to become president of the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association of the United States, a post he held until 1931. From 1932-37 he was general secretary of the International Young Men's Committee of the United States and Canada. He served as vice president of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S. from 1958-60 and was also the author of at least four books: A Good Inheritance, Adam's Eves, Religious Freedom in America: A Study Guide and The Command is Forward.

In 1932, Francis resigned as editor and publisher of the Hattiesburg American to become international president of the YMCA but retained his title of

president of the corporation until 1960. The editorship was assumed by his younger brother, Andrews, better known as Andy (see Illustration 44-B). His tenure lasted until 1960 when the paper was sold to the Hederman family of Jackson, Mississippi. Andy Harmon's first newspaper job was on a weekly in 1916, setting type by hand. This activity may have set the stage for later years when the current events of the world fueled his love for large catchy headlines. His former wife, Mary, recalled several of her personal favorite headlines.³⁵ Once, when Harmon was away working on a Santa Barbara paper in the early 1930s before he took over the editorship of the Hattiesburg American, he wrote a headline for a story about a man who had been stung on his tongue by a bee and the swelling resulted in his death by suffocation. His headline read, "Dirge is Sung for Man whose Tongue by Bee is Stung." Another headline that Mrs. Harmon recalled was from World War II, "Sic 'em Savages, Says Sellassie." On 14 August 1945 the front-page headline of the second extra of the American read, "The War Is Over" in six-inch-high Gothic condensed capital letters in wood type (see Illustration 28).

Ben Lee, editorial page editor, recalls the basic editorial tenet that prevailed from the Harmon years up to the Gannett acquisition of not opposing anything except forest fires and drownings, being in favor of

2nd EXTRA!

HATTIE

VOL. XILX—No. 194

38th

Wants to

THE WAR IS OVER

This Is Official!

★
**BUY
PEACE
BONDS**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—(AP)—President Truman announced at 6 p. m. tonight Japanese acceptance of surrender terms.

They will be accepted by General Douglas MacArthur when arrangements can be completed.

Mr. Truman read the formal message relayed from Emperor Hirohito through the Swiss government in which the Japanese ruler pledged the surrender on the terms laid down by the Big Three conference at Potsdam.

President Truman made this statement:

"I have received this afternoon a message from the Japanese government in reply to the message forwarded to that government by the secretary of state on August 11.

"I deem this reply a full acceptance of the Potsdam declaration which specifies the unconditional surrender of Japan. In this reply there is no qualification.

"Arrangements are now being made for the formal signing of surrender terms at the earliest possible moment.

"General Douglas MacArthur has been appointed the supreme Allied commander to receive the Japanese surrender.

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"Arrangements are now being made for the formal signing of surrender terms at the earliest possible moment.

"General Douglas MacArthur has been appointed the supreme Allied commander to receive the Japanese surrender.

"Great Britain, Russia and China will be represented by high ranking officers.

"Meanwhile, the Allied armed forces have been ordered to suspend offensive action.

"The proclamation of V-J day must wait upon the formal signing of the surrender terms by Japan."

Simultaneously Mr. Truman disclosed that selective service is taking immediate steps to slash inductions from 50,000 to 35,000 a month.

Henceforth, Mr. Truman said, only those men under 26 will be drafted for the reduced quotas.

The White House made public the Japanese government's message acceptance that ended the war which started December 7, 1941.

★
**BUY
PEACE
BONDS**

Illustration 28. Front Page of Hattiesburg American
"War Is Over"
14 August 1945 (Vol. XILX, No. 194)

everything else, making no one mad, rocking no boats and endorsing no local political candidates.³⁶

For 53 years including the Harmon years, Thomas St. John (see Illustration 44-J) was the business brains of the American. He came to Hattiesburg in 1908 to work at Love Drug Store, established by his uncle, M. P. Lowrey Love, who in 1919 would welcome the Mississippi Press Association to Hattiesburg for its convention on behalf of the mayor. St. John also worked briefly for Commercial National Bank and, in 1911, became circulation manager of the Hattiesburg News, owned by Frank Lander. Under Howard Williams, he headed the advertising department. When Williams sold out to the Harmons, St. John became part owner. He served as business manager and secretary-treasurer until 1960 when the American was sold to the Hedermans. He was then named general manager, remaining actively engaged in the paper's management until two months before his death in 1963.

Upon learning of St. John's death, Francis Harmon telephoned from New York:

The Hattiesburg American has lost the steady, guiding hands of its most experienced long-time executive; the city, a constructive, patriotic civic leader; Main Street Methodist Church, a dedicated church officer; his wife and family, a devoted, thoughtful husband, father and grandfather. We grieve with all in the home-going of a true friend and intimate associate over the past 30 years."³⁷

In a final tribute, reporter Elliott Chaze, wrote:

Mister Saint's small figure, his staggering collection of bow ties, the quiet voice and gentle humor (and at times a peppery temper) were as much a part of the newspaper as the very masthead at the top of Page One. To many citizens St. John meant and continues to mean The American and the paper signified St. John, the two as inextricable as ham and eggs in the minds of co-workers and the populace.³⁸

During the Depression years of St. John's tenure, the American sustained itself in part by printing its own script money to pay a portion of the employees' salaries and wages. This money was redeemable for goods at selected merchants about town, who then returned the script to the American to buy advertising space. In outlying areas subscriptions and advertising were exchanged for whatever people had in surplus. For example, many readers exchanged cans or bottles of molasses or sorghum syrup for subscriptions. In the basement of the Hattiesburg American, back behind the presses, these cans and bottles were emptied into drums and sold to buy newsprint. Occasionally, even live chickens were used to barter. Mary Harmon also recalls that vacations were usually spent on the Gulf Coast because the Buena Vista and White House hotels would exchange room and board for advertising space.³⁹

The American was cited by the Associated Press Managing Editors Association at its 1959 convention in Seattle for outstanding coverage of the kidnapping and lynching of Mack Charles Parker which occurred on 25

April. Named were Leonard Lowrey, managing editor; Elliott Chaze, newsman; and Winfred Moncrief, photographer. Lowrey had telephoned the Associated Press in New Orleans after he heard from Poplarville, Mississippi, where Parker was being held for trial on a rape charge. Chaze thought Andy Harmon should have submitted the case for Pulitzer Prize consideration, but Harmon refused.⁴⁰

On 4 March 1960, American newsman Robert Loftus, 47, of 206 North 18 Avenue, hanged himself in a Jackson hotel. After fourteen years' work at the American, he was on a temporary leave of absence to the Laurel Leader-Call as a good-will gesture by Lowrey to help out the terminally ill editor there. A native of Buffalo, New York, Loftus had been in Hattiesburg since 1945. Andy Harmon saw his work in the Camp Shelby Reveille and, though not educated as a journalist, Harmon promised him a job when Loftus returned from World War II. Upon his return, Loftus covered the police court and was on the wire desk when he died.⁴¹

Thomas St. John was succeeded as general manager on 18 December 1963 by his son, Larry, who had previously been assistant general manager (see Illustration 44-1). Larry had long been associated with the American, having worked part time after school and during summer vacations since he was eleven years old. He was graduated from Vanderbilt University in economics and

business administration. Larry died in March 1968 of a brain tumor. An editorial attributed to Leonard Lowrey, executive editor, said in part:

The city of Hattiesburg lost one of its most outstanding young leaders. . . . in his brief career made a mark for himself both in the newspaper world and in his community as a civic and church worker. . . . Friends recalled that as a child and later as a Hattiesburg High student and football player, he seldom was absent from school as a result of sickness. . . . was well liked and highly respected by employees of the American in every department. . . . Taken away by the providence of God in the prime of life, Larry St. John will be long remembered and greatly missed not only by his fellow workers at the Hattiesburg American, but by citizens of Hattiesburg and surrounding area whom he served so well.⁴²

The Hederman-Lowrey Years, 1960-1982

On 14 June 1960, the American announced its sale by Francis and Andrews Harmon and Thomas St. John to Robert M. Hederman, Jr., publisher of the Jackson Clarion-Ledger and Jackson Daily News, and his brothers, Zach T. and Henry Hederman, managing partners in Hederman Brothers commercial printing and lithography, and their families. Active operation remained in Hattiesburg and the American continued to be independently and locally edited, and Mississippi owned, although several out-of-state firms had sought to purchase the paper in the past. At this time, Thomas St. John, who had been with the American for fifty-one years, stayed on and was named general manager, while Lowrey, who had been with the American for twenty-two years, was promoted to executive editor in full charge of the news

and editorial departments. When Thomas St. John died in 1963, he was succeeded by his son, Larry, who had previously served as assistant general manager. After Larry's death in 1968, he was succeeded by Robert M. Hederman, III, a third-generation newspaperman, as general manager (see Illustration 44-E). Hederman had been editor-publisher of the Madison County Herald in Canton and before that had worked in all departments of the Clarion-Ledger and Jackson Daily News.

The civil rights movement remained a sensitive issue in Mississippi. The state legislature urged colleges to shun speakers advocating policies foreign to "our way of life." A resolution was passed for university officials "to carefully investigate and consider the background and character of persons proposed as speakers to audiences in such institutions and to refrain from extending such invitations when the investigation discloses the probability of the proposed speakers endorsing such alien theories."⁴³

The first black to attempt to enroll at an institution of higher learning in Hattiesburg was Clyde Kennard. A front-page story in the 29 September 1959 American stated he "landed in jail after trying to gain admission to all-white Mississippi Southern College . . . charged with reckless driving and whiskey possession." He was fined \$600 and died four years later in a Chicago hospital. In a lengthy letter to the editor, he wrote

his explanation on integration called "School Mix":

I would be in favor of a commission of eminent social scientists to make a careful study of colleges and universities which have practiced total integration over a long period of time, to determine whether or not the purity of any of the races involved has been greatly diluted, and if so, to what extent this dilution has actually impaired the effectiveness of those involved. . . . The second major objection which segregationists advance against racial integration is the question of morality. . . . lower economic and moral standards. . . not a cause for segregation, but the effect of segregation and discrimination. The more segregation and discrimination we have in our community the more we shall continue to have ignorance and immorality and poverty. . . . The end product of an education is a greater and more useful participation in the art of living in a civilized society. . . . If the community fails to provide those whom it educates an opportunity to serve it to the fullest extent, then the community is guilty of self-improvement or self-destruction.⁴⁴

On 1 October 1962, the lead story was headlined "Meredith enrolled as student at UM; armed guards stand by as Negro ends 114 years of segregation." Other front-page headlines told the story and filled the newshole: "University campus, riot brings bloodshed, death," "Federalized state troops break up Oxford rioters," "Outsiders blamed, students watch riot in disbelief," "Marshals blamed for UM rioting," "Gov. Barnett urges end to mix violence" and "Desegregation fight, Southern governors divided."⁴⁵

The next day brought more of the same: "Barnett contempt showdown delayed, judges give governor, Johnson until Oct. 12 to clear selves," "Over 24 more arrested at Oxford," "Trigger-happy marshals blamed for UM violence," "Local students say Old Miss 'no place to be,'" "12 bound

over, Federal grand jury to consider rioting," "Application of Negro girl is being studied," "Meredith claims classmates friendly" and "Oxford is one large Army camp."⁴⁶ The editorial, attributed to Leonard Lowrey, was entitled "Dark Clouds," and stated in part:

The state has been invaded by federal troops. Its rights have been usurped by the federal government. Men have died and have been injured because of outside interference in matters which could have been worked out peaceably over the long haul by the white and Negro citizens of Mississippi. . . . As this is written, the situation at Oxford still is tense. There is the possibility of more violence and that possibility probably will remain as long as James Meredith continues as a student at the University of Mississippi. . . . An editorial "Crisis in Mississippi" in the Dallas Morning News: It is all an effort to force Reconstruction II. . . . Education by bayonet is not education. Forced association of races in an atmosphere of distrust and hate can degenerate into anarchy.⁴⁷

Three civil-rights workers disappeared near Philadelphia, Mississippi, in 1964 and front-page headlines read: "Motorists questioned at roadblock on disappearance of rights trio," "Rights bill set for approval this week" and "Holes shot in parked cars of two civil rights workers."⁴⁸ This issue also carried stories headlined "Governor may hold meeting with Negroes" (p. 2), "NAACP official urges federal invasion of state" (p. 4), "White men free under bond after threatening (C.R.) workers" (p. 5), "Federal marshal apologizes to rights worker for beating" (p. 5), "Demonstrators protest 'terror' in Mississippi" (p. 5), and the editorial "Punks Are Punks" concerned black

hoodlums in New York City.⁴⁹ The editorial

on 30 June 1964 entitled "Negro expresses pride in his race" stated in part:

It may come as a shock to students and other civil rights crusaders who invaded Mississippi this summer to find that not all Negroes in this state are anxious to be "saved" from segregation. In fact many are unhappy over the integration unrest that has been forced upon them.

And at least a few are willing to speak out and express the pride they feel in their own race and the enjoyment they find in associating with their own kind. One of these is Joseph F. Albright, who wrote the following column headed "Go home, 'Savior,'" which appeared in Percy Green's Jackson Advocate last week and then was reprinted in the June 25 Prentiss Headlight, where it came to our attention.⁵⁰

Finally, the front page of 5 April 1968 was filled with new tragedy: "Have some leads in King's murder; assassination of civil rights leader spurs riots, looting across the country," "Negroes call for boycott of Jackson schools, businesses," "LBJ meets with leaders of civil rights movement," "Governor to speak on TV at 4 o'clock," "Local NAACP calls meeting to cut chances of violence" and "Guns, ammunition stolen from store at Harvey." The editorial in this issue was attributed to Lowrey and entitled "Another foolish act of violence":

Another foolish, senseless and very costly act of violence has been added to the shameful list with the slaying in Memphis of Dr. Martin Luther King.

We often disagreed strongly with Dr. King's tactics in applying the principle of non-violence, and to pretend otherwise on the occasion of his death would be highly improper.

We felt strongly that he should not have become involved with massive demonstrations in the tense Memphis labor situation, since this could not lead to a solution but only to more trouble. We also felt that his planned campaign this spring and summer in Washington was going to be a tragic mistake, harmful

both to his people and to the nation.

But we totally and emphatically reject the mad act of the assassin who hid in the darkness and took his life, and we believe all thoughtful people should feel saddened and sickened because of this act.

Violence and turmoil and disorder have gone far enough. These conditions give cause for mourning not just for the direct victims, but for a sick humanity and a terribly troubled nation.

The sickness and the trouble cannot be corrected by further violence but can only be made worse, as Dr. King would be the first to acknowledge.⁵¹

Curiously, what is considered by many university journalism departments to be the standard journalism history text, Emery and Emery's The Press and America: An Interpretative History of the Mass Media, currently in its fifth edition, makes no mention of the treatment of the civil rights movement in the media.

The first mention of Hattiesburg by the Mississippi Press Women in its state contests occurred in 1965 when Virginia Woodward of the American won the following categories: First place, editorial in daily newspaper; first, writing for adults, poetry in newspaper or other publication; second, special series of articles--critics review of music, art, drama, books; second, publicity or promotion in combination of media; third, daily newspaper column; third, special edition by woman. Also in 1965, the American won a first place for best use of photographs in a daily from the Mississippi Press Association Better Newspaper Contest. Again, this was the earliest-found mention of a competition award from this association.

On 29 July 1972 a new one-story brick newspaper

plant at 823-833 North Main Street was formally opened. Since the days of the Hattiesburg News, the paper had been located in a three-story, wooden-frame converted hotel at 110 West Front Street (see Illustration 29). At first it rented the ground floor, but eventually took over the whole building and three others besides. The new building was designed by Gilmore and Biggers of Jackson in cooperation with Technical Service Co., Denver, and doubled the previous space, including storage for a 90-day newsprint supply. The 84-by-204-foot building was positioned on the property and designed to allow future expansion on all four sides. The main office exemplified the wide-open work area idea with the departments of bookkeeping, classified, news and advertising all located in the same room and separated from each other by aisles and counters. A new Goss Urbanite offset press and Compugraphics equipment were installed to enable the production of a higher quality newspaper with more color. The press was capable of printing spot color or four-color process pictures.⁵²

Hattiesburg's first Sunday newspaper was the Progress in 1907-08. The first Sunday edition ever published by the Hattiesburg American appeared on Sunday, 5 August 1973, with Fitz McCoy as Sunday editor".⁵³ He called it "a 98-page whopper."

Sections were devoted to news; sports with Mickey



Illustration 29. Home of Daily News and American
110 West Front Street
circa 1908

Edwards, editor; women's news with Gay Collins, editor; six-page, full-color comics leading with "Prince Valiant" by Hal Foster; Family Weekly magazine; and commentary, features and an editorial entitled "American Joins in Area's March of Progress" stated:

We have loosened up the format, made the type larger and easier to read, added a number of new columns and features, and, with this issue, begun the unique experience of publishing a Sunday paper.

We believe these changes will help the American to do a better job of informing, entertaining, and serving the best interests of the people of Hattiesburg and South Mississippi.⁵⁴

According to Mott, "Sabbatarians made long and loud objection to such 'desecration' of the Sabbath,"⁵⁵ but McCoy attributed its commencement to an economic decision by Hederman.⁵⁶ McCoy was a former sports editor, editorial writer and editor of the May 1973 Progress Report edition.

From 1976 to 1980, George R. Wanstrath (see Illustration 44-L) served as general manager, having been appointed by Hederman. Just previous to this appointment Wanstrath had been business manager of the Ypsilanti Press and the Corpus Christi Caller Times, both Harte-Hanks newspapers. Prior to that, while working as an operations analyst for Tenneco Oil Company in Houston, Texas, Wanstrath writes that he got into journalism "by accident."⁵⁷ He was "looking for something different and unusual. A headhunter (recruiter) was working for Harte-Hanks in 1972 when it was just going

public and looking for professional managers. It has been a love affair ever since."⁵⁸

During Wanstrath's tenure, revenue totaled \$5 million, circulation was 25,000 daily and 26,000 on Sunday, with 130 employees. Wanstrath also oversaw the commercial printing (both sheet and roll) operation, plus four weekly newspapers with a 8,500 combined circulation. On his resume, Wanstrath writes that revenue increased 40 percent and net profit improved 100 percent; net profit to revenue improved 50 percent.⁵⁹ The American received a Better Newspaper Award by the Mississippi Press Association. Wanstrath further claims to have improved overall newspaper operation through better organization, communication, personnel policies and financial reports. He instituted capital improvements in the business office, production, installed sheet-fed press operation, and negotiated the purchase of a weekly newspaper.⁶⁰

As part of a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a newsprint mill in New Augusta, Mississippi, the American agreed to test newsprint made from softwood pulp for the Kymi Kymmene paper mill of Finland. Logs and wood chips were shipped from Leaf River Forest Products in New Augusta to the Finnish mill and the newsprint manufactured there was shipped back for testing. Letterpress runs were conducted by the State Times in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and offset runs by the Hattiesburg American. The newsprint was produced using

a chemical-free thermo-mechanical process, which dispensed with traditional chemical pulp and promised operating cost reduction as well as reduction of pollution control problems. James Lucas, American pressroom foreman, reported no problems whatsoever. The 120 rolls of experimental newsprint served the American for about eight days, giving reproduction just as good as with normal newsprint.⁶¹

From the Harmon regime, through Hederman and into the Gannett years, the major editorial presence attending the day-by-day operations of the American was Leonard Lowrey (see Illustration 44-F). In honor of his memory and contribution, the following words appear on the American masthead: "Leonard Lowrey (1921-1982). American reporter and editor 1938-1982."

When Lowrey first decided to try newspaper work, his father arranged with Andy Harmon to take on young Lowrey, then a senior at old Demonstration High School, for a trial period of one month. His father was Dr. R. G. Lowrey, chairman of the English Department at Mississippi Southern College (later University of Southern Mississippi). Dr. Lowrey secretly gave Harmon a check for thirty dollars (one dollar a day) and they agreed that young Leonard was not to know of this financial transaction. At the end of the trial month, Harmon returned the check to Dr. Lowrey and young Leonard was hired as a part-time reporter.⁶²

In college he was freshman class president and a

part-time American sports writer and editor. In his senior year (1942) he was editor of the university's student newspaper, Student Printz. His bachelor's degree was in English and history, and he earned a listing in Who's Who of American Colleges and Universities. After a tour of duty as a lieutenant (junior grade) during World War II with the U. S. Navy on a destroyer escort, he came back to the American and worked as sports writer, sports editor, city editor and wire editor. In 1950 he was named managing editor; in 1960, executive editor.

Lowrey died of a heart attack at his desk in the American newsroom on Christmas Eve, 1982. Among his obituary tributes, Duane K. McCallister, publisher, Hattiesburg American, said Lowrey ". . . lived his life for his family, his Lord, his community and his newspaper;"⁶³ John C. Quinn, senior vice president and chief news executive of Gannett Co., Inc., said Lowrey ". . . leaves splendid tradition . . . in love for his work;"⁶⁴ and Frank Sutherland, managing editor, Hattiesburg American, said Lowrey was ". . . generous, honorable, led by example."⁶⁵

Some awards kept by the Lowrey family include a plaque from the Louisiana-Mississippi Associated Press for placing first in its News Editing Contest for 1961, 1962 and 1963, after which the plaque was permanently retired to Lowrey's possession. Another of which family

members think Lowrey would have been especially proud was from the Mississippi Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame and read "Longtime newspaper editor and reporter and a charter member of the Big Eight Writers Association. Inducted 30 June 1984," posthumously. Still others were from 4-H, Rotary and the Student Printz-Mississippi Medalist award for achievement in journalism. The latter is chosen by ballot from journalism peers across the state and presented by the University of Southern Mississippi Journalism Department at the annual banquet of the Student Printz.

The Gannett-McCallister Years, 1980-

The Hedermans named Duane K. McCallister (see Illustration 44-H) as general manager in May 1980. Since 1976 he had been general manager over ten Gannett weeklies doing business as the Suburban Newspaper Group, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. McCallister replaced Wanstrath who had left several months previously to become general manager of the Texarkana (Texas) Gazette. McCallister arrived at the American two years before the Gannett acquisition and was promoted to president and publisher when the company took over. The American became Gannett's 86th newspaper in its 37th state.

The newspaper industry has been one of the most profitable in this country for decades. After-tax profits are around ten percent, well above the average return of business in general and double the median for Fortune's top 500.⁶⁶

As properties, newspapers are in short supply. The combination of scarcity and high profitability produces phenomena such as Gannett paying \$221 per subscriber for a modest daily in western Pennsylvania. Also Porter noted that taxes and taxation policies make selling both desirable and imperative. A privately held media property is a taxable asset in the estate when principals die and it is frequently necessary to sell the property to pay the taxes.

Gannett papers are mostly in small and medium size cities and are virtually free of direct competition. "In making its acquisitions, Gannett looks for family-type operations which can add substantial profit to Gannett through its management expertise. The crucial factor in the analysis is not what the most recent earnings have been, but what the realistic potential may be."⁶⁷ When the Hedermans decided to sell their newspaper properties, including the American, to Gannett, a front-page story on 1 April 1982, explained their decision:

The sale of any property that has been family operated for generations is a transaction that can only be approached in emotional terms. Factors other than monetary values become more important; factors that in no way can be quantified. After consideration of such aspects, it was determined best by the Hederman family to sell its daily newspapers in Jackson and Hattiesburg, along with its six weeklies. With the determination to sell, it became vital to find an organization that could best manage these important properties in the tradition of quality and community service. In selecting a buyer--just as in determining to sell--qualitative

rather than monetary factors were given the most weight. The search for such a buyer led to Gannett--a company whose dedication to good journalism resulted in a recent Pulitzer Prize for public service. We are confident that the journalistic excellence of and commitment to public service of the Clarion-Ledger, Jackson Daily News and Hattiesburg American will be carried forward by Gannett.⁶⁸

The weeklies involved in the transaction were the Clinton News, Gautier Independent, Lumberton Headblock, Madison County Herald, Ocean Springs Record and Pearl Press Chronicle, bringing to 32 Gannett's non-daily newspapers. One year after the purchase, on 7 April 1983, the Headblock was closed because it was determined to be an unprofitable operation. Though not specifically mentioned in the transaction, the free-distribution Petal Journal apparently was included in the purchase. It is a Thursday insert of the American for Petal subscribers, thrown free to non-subscribers and found stacked at such places as grocery stores.

Terms of the Hederman-Gannett sale were not disclosed, but John Morton, a newspaper analyst for Lynch Jones & Ryan, estimated the purchase of the whole package "could easily be in the \$95 million to \$100 million range. . . . There aren't many papers of this size and attractiveness left that haven't already been bought by newspaper chains. It's a real plum for Gannett."⁶⁹

In the same article, Allen H. Neuharth, chairman and president of Gannett, was quoted:

Gannett is delighted to enter the Mississippi market in these two dynamic areas which promise to continue to be among the leaders in the Sunbelt's growth. We look forward to building on the splendid and solid newspaper base developed by the Hederman family over more than a half century. We pledge to become good citizens. These newspapers will continue to be run by Mississippians for Mississippians under our long-standing policy of local autonomy. But we hope to use Gannett's nationwide resources to help provide even better service for readers and advertisers, opportunity and security for employees, and support for the area's many fine civic, cultural and charitable activities.⁷⁰

The Sunbelt had been mentioned also much earlier concerning future Gannett acquisitions. Radolf quoted John E. Heselden, company senior vice president and chief of newspaper operations, as saying, "Everybody's interested in the Sunbelt and West. We're willing to pay a higher price in areas of growth. Our policy is to seek average-sized papers . . . not in the larger cities." As for the purchase price, in the same article, James Thomas, company treasurer, said, "We try to structure the financing to what people want."⁷¹ Gannett pays for newspaper properties with stock, installment sale contracts or cash on the day of sale. McCallister's estimate of the total sales price was \$110 million.⁷²

An upbeat American editorial attributed to Leonard Lowrey and entitled "Our Change in Ownership" acknowledged that a significant change had taken place in Mississippi Journalism, but drastic changes in the Hattiesburg American were not to be expected since the Gannett policy is to allow each of its papers to exercise

complete local control over editorial policy and news operation.⁷³

While announcement of the sale came as a complete surprise to most American employees, changes were expected to be positive. The editorial stated that Gannett would provide resources for expanded news coverage including its own news wire service. Consultants and seminars would be available to assist all departments. News and classified departments had already converted to new electronic video display terminals, replacing typewriters, and, coincidentally, went on-line the same day as the announcement.⁷⁴

The editorial concluded by expressing appreciation to the Hedermans for their contributions to Mississippi in nearly sixty years of newspaper ownership and particularly for their efforts in behalf of improving the American and boosting the Hattiesburg area in the past twenty-two years. "Now we look forward to a period of even greater growth and expanded service under the Gannett Group."

In November 1982, McCallister hired Frank Sutherland (see Illustration 44-K) from Gannett's Nashville Tennessean, where he had been since 1963, for the newly created position of managing editor. After Lowrey's sudden death in December 1982, Sutherland assumed Lowrey's duties, but retained his title. Lowrey's title of "executive editor" was retired from use. The Hattiesburg American Employee Information

Handbook was revised in 1983 to show the new organizational structure (see Illustration 30). With Gannett as owner, the positions are held currently by McCallister, president/publisher; Virginia M. Thomas, executive secretary, administration personnel; Laurence E. Burlingame, advertising director; James Douglas Nobles, production manager; Sutherland, managing editor; James H. Clark, circulation manager; and Gregory Lepien, controller (see Appendix B for biographical information on major newspaper people of Hattiesburg).

Burlingame's advertising department includes about 21 employees in classified advertising, retail advertising and ad services, the latter provides layout assistance, artwork and tearsheets. As the primary contact with the business community, it is responsible for generating most income. Factors affecting his performance are based on the health of the local economy and competition. In 1984 retail sales were down five percent from 1983, several stores closed and unemployment was up in the county from 7.9 percent in December 1983 to 9.1 percent in December 1984. Burlingame saw 1984 as a transitional period leading to stabilization in 1985 with training a top priority. Linage results were mixed with retail declining, large classified gains and national advertising strong. In June 1984, Burlingame's department was awarded first place for best retail ad and for best promotion of newspaper, in addition to five other awards, by the Mississippi Advertising and

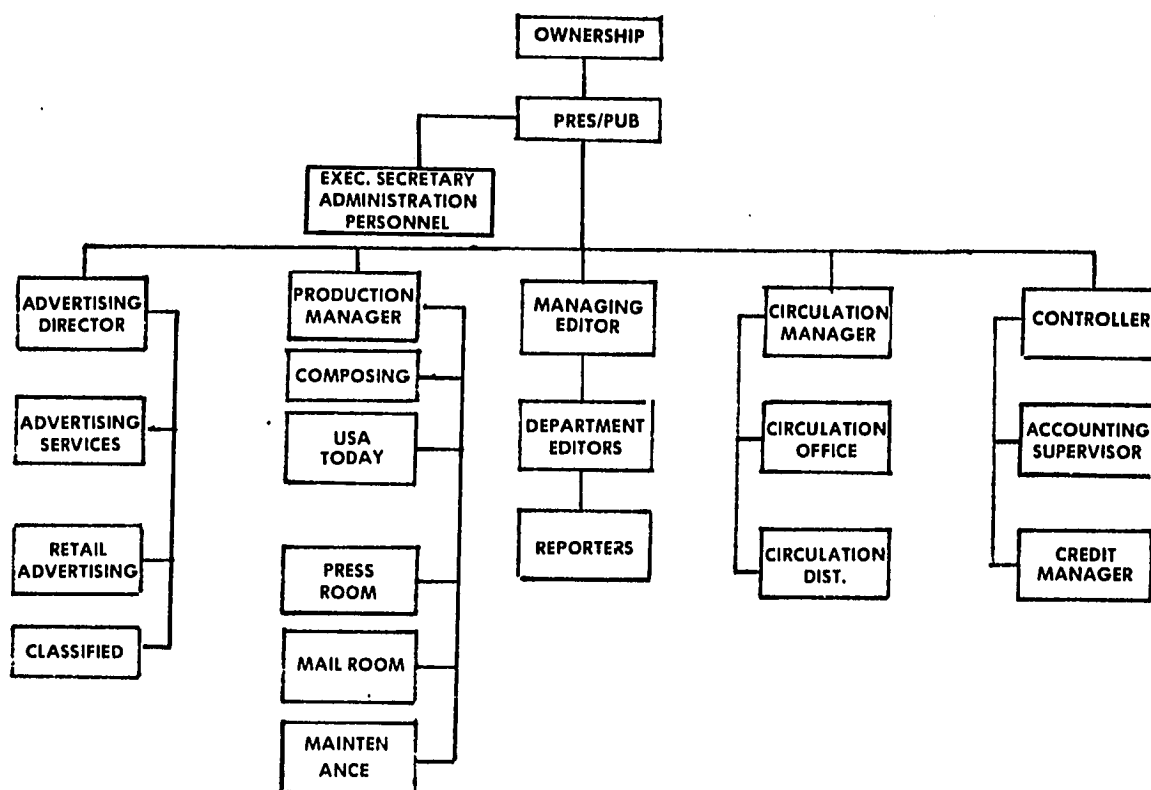


Illustration 30. Organizational Chart
Hattiesburg American

Marketing Executives. In January 1985, in the Mississippi Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest, seven out of eleven first-places were won, as well as five others. The American participates with nine other papers in Gannett's Southern region in monthly idea contests and idea bulletins.

In Nobles' production department, 1984 was a year of new building construction and installation of new equipment including a second folder, mailroom overhead conveyor equipment (see Illustration 31) and six flying Cary pasters that splice rolls of newsprint together without having to stop the press. Six new Goss (Chicago) Urbanite presses with a capacity of 40,000 impressions per hour were added to the eight already in place at a cost of about \$200,000 each, enabling a run of 48 pages with 16 pages of process color (see Illustration 32). After training and break-in, efficiency and man-hours improved as press starts and waste decreased. Of the \$3.6 million in equipment purchases in the past few years, most came to this department. Nobles supervises about 56 employees who handle operations from the reporter to the carrier, from computers to composing, from plateroom to press, from inserting to bundling. Gannett Offset does commercial printing of inserts. Besides the American with its free-distribution Petal Journal inserted on Thursday to Petal subscribers, four weeklies use the American pressroom, the Gautier Independent, George County Times of Lucedale,

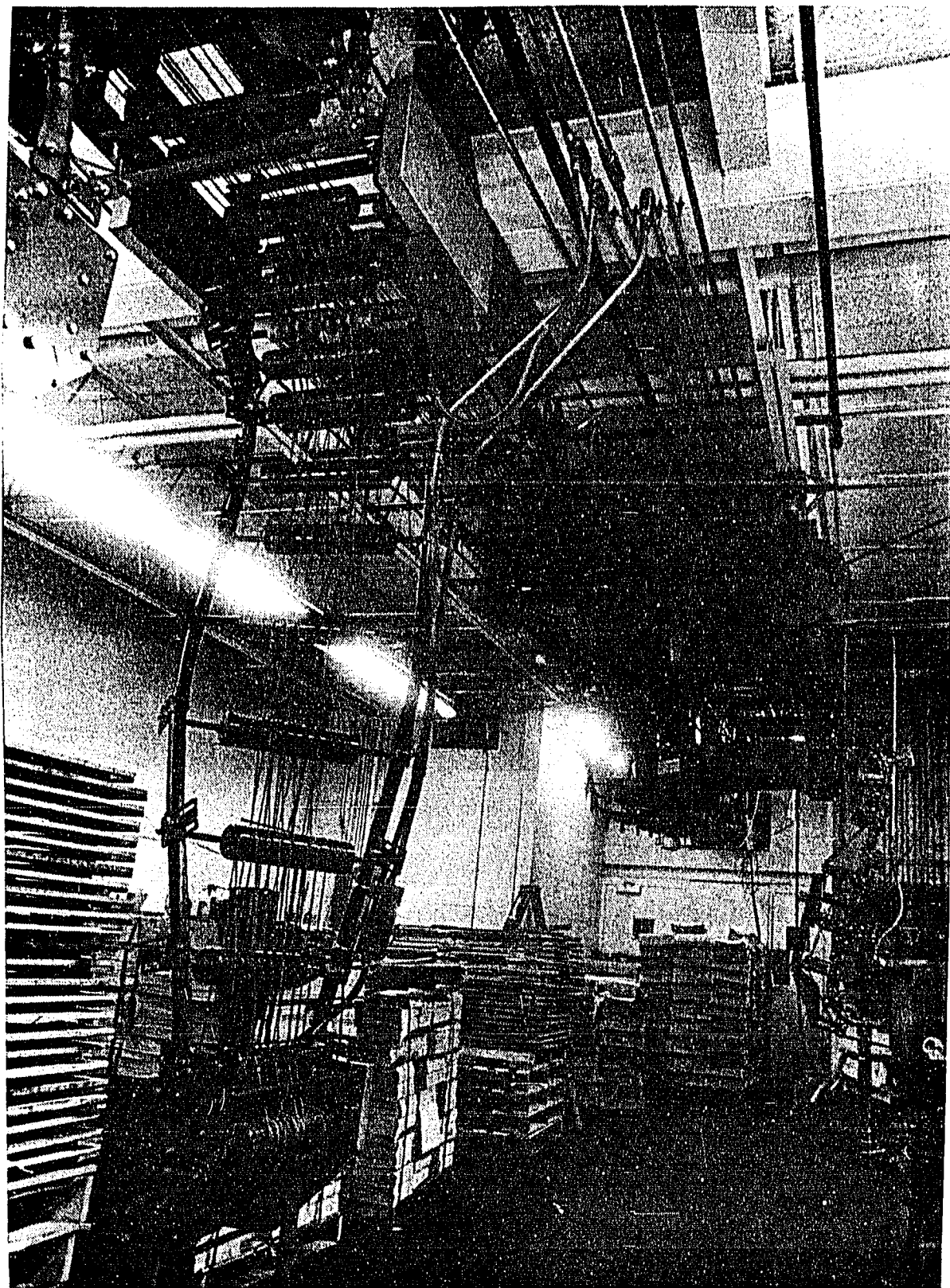


Illustration 31. American Overhead Conveyor
Pressroom to Mailroom, 1985

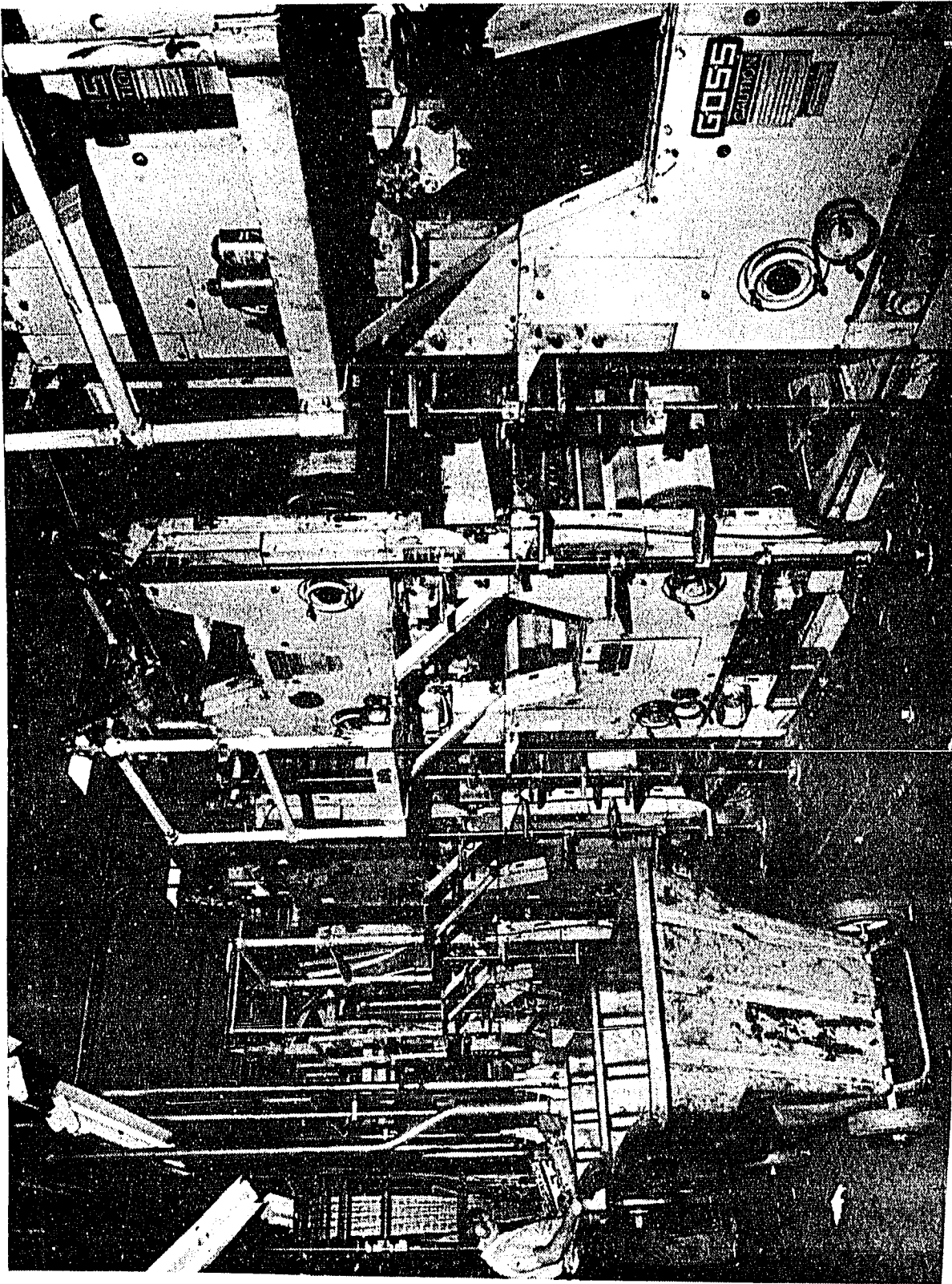


Illustration 32. American Pressroom, 1985

News-Commercial of Collins and The Record of Ocean Springs. Their press runs average 4,000. Five nights a week, USA TODAY is printed here. Its press run is not available, but national circulation is 1.3 million.⁷⁵ Hanging in Nobles' office is the American's first-place offset picture, medium (16,000-30,000 circulation) newspaper, from the 1981 Kodak International Newspaper Color Reproduction Contest. McCallister hosted a celebration party and gave the thirteen participants certificates of merit and \$50 bonuses.

Sutherland's newsroom department (see Illustration 33) is staffed by 24 professionals and two clerical workers, including writers, editors and photographers, divided into Features, Living, News, Photography and Sports. Monday through Friday two editions are published; Saturday and Sunday, one.

Newsroom highlights under Sutherland during 1984 include national attention being directed to two stories: (1) An investigation of the economic, political and social connections between Third-World countries and Hattiesburg, which earned a "Laurel" in the March-April issue of the Columbia Journalism Review, and (2) The Oscar Black case which led to McCallister's appearance on 10 January 1985 on the nationally syndicated Phil Donahue Show, along with Cliff Brown, station manager, WDAM-TV, Channel 7, Hattiesburg; Reed Irvine, chairman, Accuracy in Media; and Jerry Nachman, news director, WNBC, News 4.

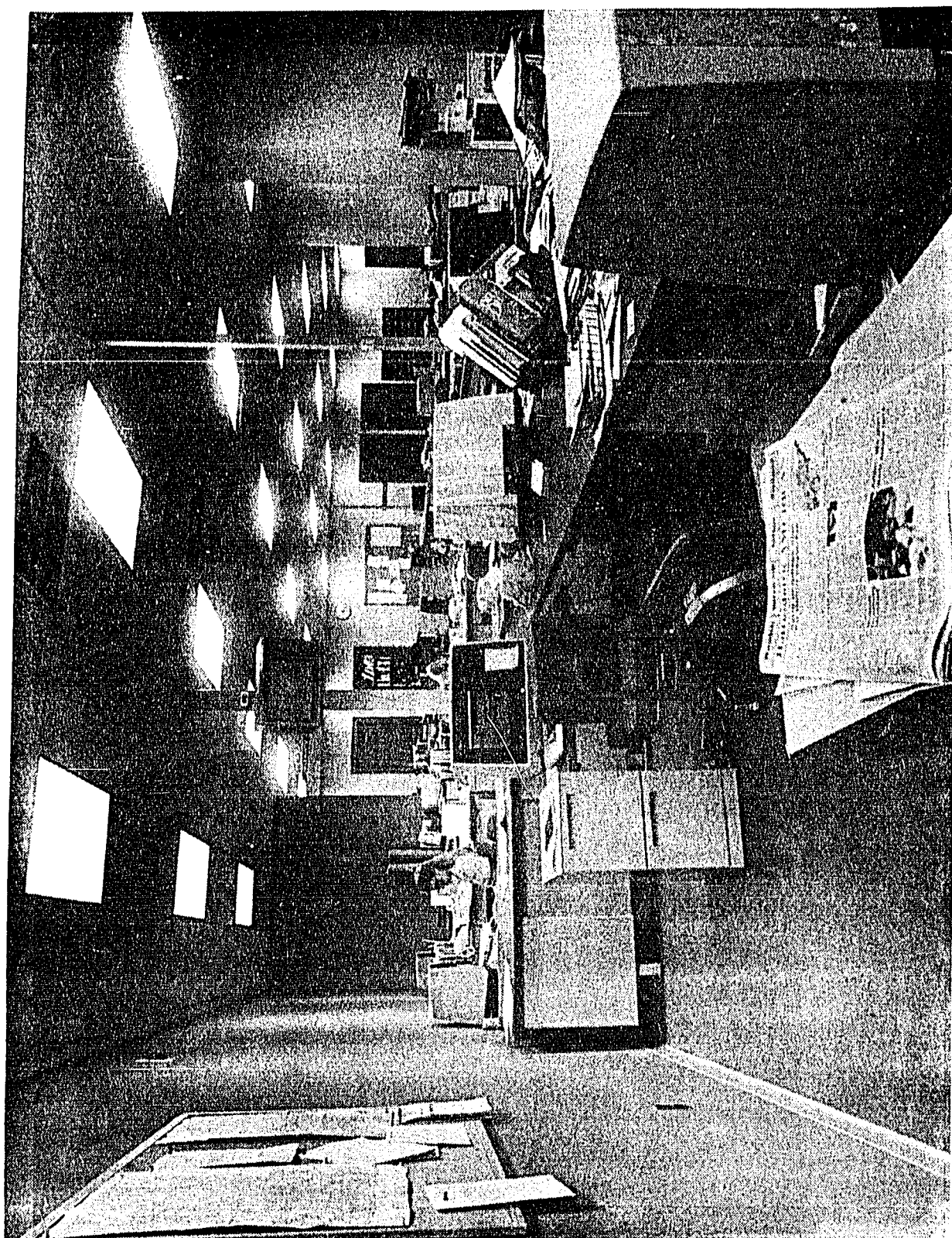


Illustration 33. American Newsroom, 1985

Police had asked the newspaper and the local television station to disseminate false reports in staging the death of Black, a cattle dealer. The hoax was staged to apprehend a man who allegedly was willing to pay \$35,000 for Black's death. The station cooperated; the newspaper did not. A suspect was arrested in June 1985.⁷⁶

As a result of the recognition given the five-part series of stories linking Third World nations with Hattiesburg, the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation received \$235,000 in grants to finance a program entitled "Main Street America and the Third World." It is designed to help newspapers and broadcast stations investigate links between their communities and Third World nations. The project was initiated by John Hamilton, a journalist and public affairs official of the World Bank, who claimed readership of international reporting in daily newspapers could be improved with limited funding. The grant money will be used to sponsor workshops and to produce a guidebook to show journalists how to report stories similar to those in the American.⁷⁷

For 1984, a year of critiquing and training, Sutherland sees his strengths in local news, recruiting of talent and improvement in hiring and coverage of minorities; weaknesses, capitol coverage, coverage of outlying areas; 1985 goals, more enterprise, better writing and newsroom handbook. In comparison to Leonard Lowrey's operation, Sutherland believes his is more

aggressive, more a group effort with his editors, dependent more on long-range planning than Lowrey's. Where Lowrey averaged 1-2 local stories on Page 1, Sutherland averaged 3-4. According to Sutherland, Lowrey's philosophy was to support the "good guys" the best you can and write positive things about them, while Sutherland's philosophy is that democracy works best when everything is out on the table and everyone has his say and then the individual can decide. In this regard, Sutherland tends to follow some basic assumptions of the libertarian theory of the press.⁷⁸

Sutherland said readers were not happy to see him give play to criticism of the city and University of Southern Mississippi. He sees his role at the American as keeping "the news operation in proper balance, making sure the American misses no news that our readers need to know. Most often our problem is not what news needs to go into the paper, but deciding what we have to leave out."⁷⁹

On 1 June 1983, Sutherland began a newsletter for the editorial staff called "The American Way." It serves as a forum for good writing, style deviations from the AP standard, beat changes,. In it Sutherland advises adherence to The Elements of Style by Strunk and White; urges rewriting routine, formula AP leads; localizing wire stories; discusses professionalism as caring, desiring to be right and complete the first time; urges not taking the results of just one interview because

issues and events always have more than one interpretation; announces that the American does reimburse employees for tuition for work-related courses. When McCallister assumed the presidency of the Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce on 1 January 1984, he instructed the newsroom through "The American Way" to treat him as any other newsmaker, by interviewing aggressively and striving for fairness and objectivity.

Clark's circulation department is responsible for getting the paper in the hands of the reader and for newspaper promotion in South Central Mississippi. Print competitors are the Biloxi Daily Herald/Sun, Jackson Clarion-Ledger and Laurel Leader-Call. The staff consists of 23 employees, including a circulation sales secretary, five district supervisors overseeing about 101 carriers, five single-copy rack representatives and three weekend supervisors. The 101 carriers service 400 vending racks, 50 over-the-counter sales outlets and about 22,000 home delivery customers. About 50 percent of the rural carriers pick up their papers at the American and 25 percent of those relay the papers out to other carriers. In town 10 to 15 percent pick up their papers, but most carriers have their bundles delivered to a convenient location by the circulation department. Only 25 to 30 percent of the in-town carriers are traditional paper boys on bicycles. Many carriers are older, retired persons looking for extra income.

Circulation highlights for 1984 indicate daily

circulation down by 4.5 percent and Sunday circulation down by 2.7 percent, with single-copy sales gaining and home deliveries declining. Clark attributes this trend to "aggressive pricing" for the last two years, but stated service is improving and 1985 priorities lie in training and sales. Daily single copies sell for 35 cents; Sunday, 75 cents; subscriptions, \$7.25 per month.⁸⁰ Clark's operations are guided by the Audit Bureau of Circulation, an internationally recognized overseer of newspaper distribution figures.⁸¹

According to Riffe and Shaw:

At a time when 15 cents was the most common price, an increase to 20 cents would have produced more revenue, but an increase to 25 cents would not.

Publishers, it would seem, underestimate the consumer demand for their highly valued product, to the point of failing to realize potential revenue and perhaps of limiting their opportunities for growth and product improvement. Their product, however, seems to be in demand in smaller communities, whether perceived as a necessity or an affordable luxury by consumers in the media marketplace. Slight, acceptable increases in price--without loss of advertisers but with the increased capability for improving the newspaper--could serve to make the newspaper's position, at least in the media marketplace of a small community, stronger and more profitable than ever.⁸²

Lepien assumed the position of controller on 7 January 1985 and was immediately immersed in year-end closing operations which revealed several problem areas, including the ongoing accounting operation, balance sheet, collections procedures and data processing. As problems were encountered, his eleven business office staff members made the necessary corrections with help

from corporate headquarters and other Gannett papers. This department is responsible for "keeping the books" for payroll, accounts payable, collections, advertising and circulation billings as well as maintaining daily statistics on the number of pages (about 11,000 a year), number and length of various kinds of advertisements, columns of news copy, daily circulation and newsprint waste. Two clerks handle billing for more than 50,000 advertisements each year. Another clerk bills the 101 newspaper carriers and maintains more than 800 paid-in-advance accounts for individual subscribers. The business office computer in Hattiesburg also handles circulation statistics for USA TODAY distribution in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In its 1984 annual report, Gannett calls itself "The Information Company," the nationwide diversified news and information company, operating newspapers, television and radio stations, and outdoor advertising, research, marketing, news and broadcast program production subsidiaries. It has facilities in 36 states, Canada, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is the nation's largest newspaper group with 85 dailies, including USA TODAY, and 35 non-dailies, with a total paid daily circulation of about 4.7 million. The outdoor advertising group is the largest in North America, with operations in eleven states and throughout Canada. Gannett News Service has bureaus in thirteen cities, eleven of which are state capitals. Gannett owns and

operates six television stations, eight AM and eight FM radio stations. Corporate headquarters was moved from Rochester, New York, to Arlington, Virginia, since the 1983 report. The company was founded by Frank E. Gannett and associates in 1906, incorporated in 1923 and listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1967. The company has more than 28,000 employees. Its 80 million shares of common stock are held by 10,738 shareholders of record in all fifty states. Net income per share rose from \$1.78 in 1979 to \$2.80 in 1984, while dividends increased from .809 per share in 1979 to 1.33 in 1984.

According to Gannett's annual reports, total net operating revenue rose from \$1,065,244,000 in 1979 to \$1,960,197,000 in 1984. Sources for this revenue include newspaper advertising, newspaper circulation, broadcasting and outdoor advertising. Operating expenses (costs and expenses, depreciation, amortization of intangible assets) rose from \$788,991,000 in 1979 to \$1,513,601,000 in 1984. Net income increased from \$143,281,000 in 1979 to \$223,934,000 in 1984.⁸³

Chain or group ownership raises questions about absentee ownership, political motives, control of editorial opinion and standardization of format and copy. Villard observed in The Nation, "Some of the smaller communities resent the control of their dailies by men living elsewhere."⁸⁴ Most of the Hedermans were absentee owners, although Robert, III,

lived in Hattiesburg for nine years when he worked on the paper.

Gannett's benefits package provides an employee profit-sharing plan that tends to ease the stigma of absentee ownership. "Announcements of chain acquisition in a community produce protests and circulation declines,"⁸⁵ but not a single letter to the editor either for or against the Gannett acquisition could be found.

As for circulation, a sharp rise and fall did occur before and after 1982 (see Illustration 34). The rise was attributed to "an improved product."⁸⁶ Several factors need consideration with the fall after 1982, namely, subscription rates were raised twice in less than a year, Gannett took over, Leonard Lowrey died. Lowrey personified the American for the residents of Hattiesburg and the new ownership represented big business and change to the small town. McCallister does not completely agree with this observation.⁸⁷

Frank E. Gannett (1876-1957) was once asked if he had any definite purpose in mind for creating his chain, such as influencing public opinion. He replied negatively, saying he merely enjoyed enlarging his personal field of activity. Incidentally, he preferred the term "group" to avoid any connotation of the evils of chain ownership, to which Bagdikian noted, "'The new monopoly' is that of 'groups,' a word evolved from the

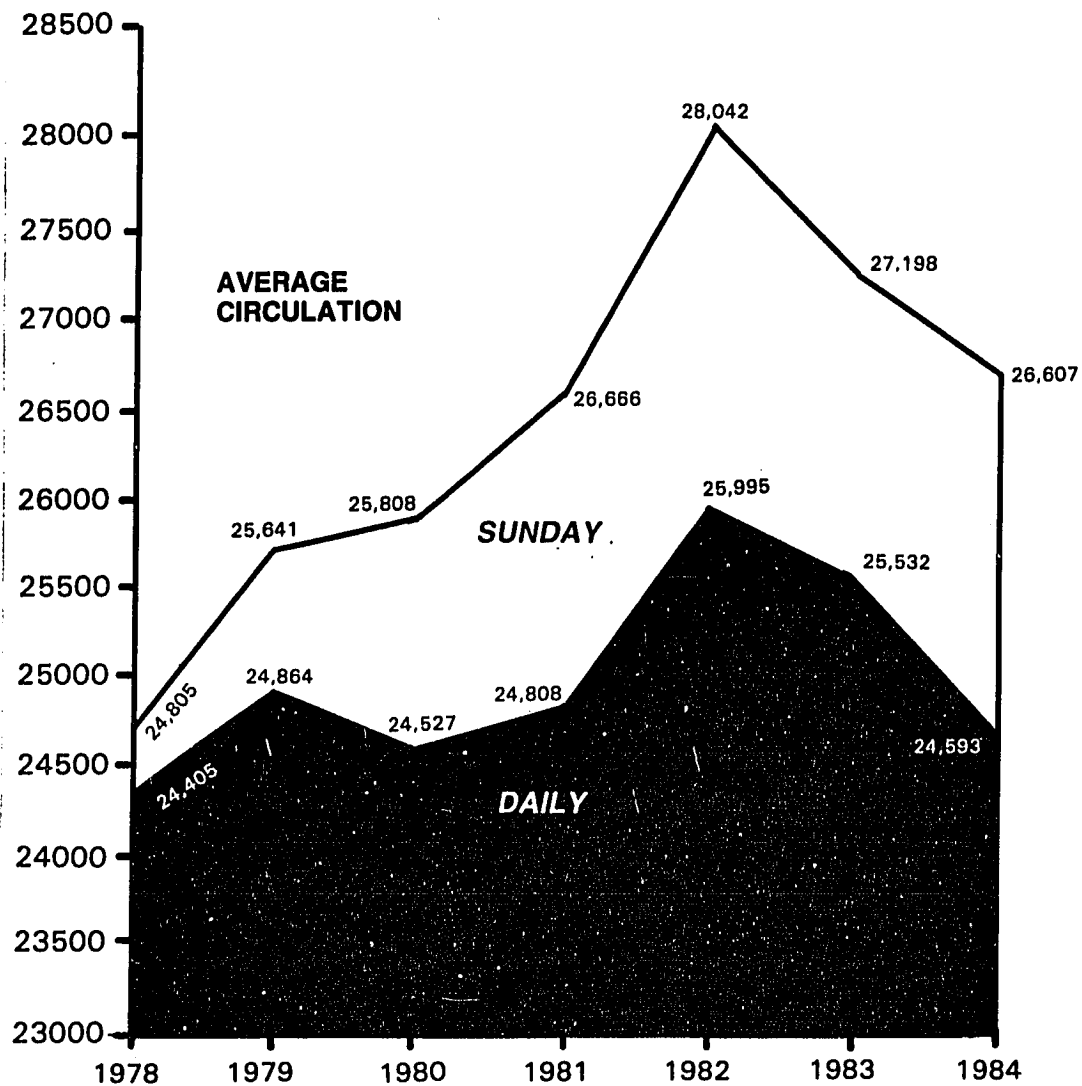


Illustration 34. Recent Circulation History
Hattiesburg American

old-fashioned 'chain,' as 'funeral director' is from 'undertaker.'"88 Gannett was ambitious, self-confident, trusting and hardly ever relaxed. His work was his recreation. His optimism and drive tended to attract loyalty and friendship among his associates. Had he been abusive with his chain, the force of government regulations, an intelligent citizenry and professional ethics would have been intolerable.

The uniqueness of Gannett's approach to editorial opinion among his newspapers was described by Villard.⁸⁹ Actually, three distinct policies had emerged. Scripps-Howard newspapers were free to deal with local issues, but all conformed to a national editorial policy. Hearst editors reflected his own contradictory, changing views and personal whims. Gannett, on the other hand, did not alter the political policies of the papers he purchased, and noted Villard, "It is certainly unusual for an owner to grant to his editors the complete freedom of opinion and expression which Mr. Gannett permits."⁹⁰

Williamson carried this thought a bit further in his biography of Gannett when he said that historians of American journalism would have a hard time in naming similar instances in which an editor could criticize his publisher in the publisher's own newspaper without fear or threat of parting company.⁹¹ In his lifetime, Gannett meant what he said about editorial independence and was surprised whenever anyone questioned

his sincerity. He believed absolutely that he could avoid the evils of chain ownership by making his newspapers a group with local autonomy.

In 1980, his company was found guilty of breach of contract by a jury in U. S. District Court for failing to grant local autonomy to editor Robert McKinney of the Santa Fe New Mexican in a fourteen-week trial, the longest in New Mexico history.⁹²

Reeves attacked the trend to chains using Gannett as an illustration, saying:

The future is as visible as McDonald's Golden Arches. Gannett and McDonald's are in the same business--and that business is not causing trouble.

What Gannett is doing is training a cadre of managers with one charge: maintain the corporation's dazzling growth rate. . . . When the cops do break into most American newsrooms, they're not going to find much more than wedding announcements and PTA bulletins.⁹³

According to Bird and Merwin, standardization plays a significant part in chain journalism. Many social implications result from the use by a newspaper group of the same columns, editorials, features, pictures, special news stories, and even type faces. Such uniformity must weigh heavily on the initiative and imagination of individual staff members. Its impact on the thought processes of the many different publics served by the chain is probably a consequence of even deeper significance.⁹⁴

Cartoonist Bill Mauldin, who has lived in Santa Fe for years, said of the Gannett-style New Mexican, "It could be printed in Hutchinson, Kansas, or Amarillo,

or Pecos, Texas. Essentially it lacks character. It particularly lacks the character of the place it's being printed in."⁹⁵

Big-business ownership has brought new technology, services, benefits and improvements to the American. One stipulation that has been carried forth from Gannett's management days is his insistence upon uniform accounting procedures for all Gannett properties. From one of its wholly owned subsidiaries, most office and production supplies are furnished at discount rates.

On 13 July 1981 a format change was established with web width being reduced from 30 inches to 27 1/2 inches so each page became one and one-quarter inches narrower and each column was reduced in width by one-sixth inch to conform with a national trend to standardize the sizes of advertisements and to conserve newsprint.

Editorially the paper's appearance changed, too. On 19 October 1981, a redesigned format appeared "to provide more news and features in an attractive, convenient and better organized package" (see Illustration 35). Under the guidance of Ray Wong, chief photo and art supervisor who came to Hattiesburg on loan from the Clarion-Ledger, bolder, cleaner headline type and a new nameplate were incorporated, as was a front-page digest including a brief weather forecast, story summaries and index. On the inside, News, Living and Sports became sections (or pages, depending on the

newshole) that appear daily. Beginning in July 1983, each Monday there is a Health page; Tuesday, Learning; Wednesday and Sunday, Marketplace; Thursday, Weekender; Friday, Neighbors; Saturday, Religion; and Sunday, Focus and Panorama sections.

The daily content sequence is obituaries; then state and local news; editorial page; commentary and analysis; national and world news; women's news. The back of the front section carries Page 1 jumps and late-breaking local and Associated Press news. The second section carries sports, comics, television log, entertainment business and classifieds. Syndicated columnists Lewis Grizzard and Donald Lambro were added to Jack Anderson, William F. Buckley, Rowland Evans, Robert Novak and Sylvia Porter. A column, "On the Lopside," by former city editor Elliott Chaze appears on Thursday. During the year special editions or sections appear covering spring and fall fashions, income tax, bridal, home and garden, recipes, home improvement and energy, vacation, progress, back to school, football, Christmas shoppers' guide, Labor Day, Independence Day sales, woman, private party, among others.

As a community service, on 16 April 1984, the American hosted a media relations seminar for the publicity and public relations staff members of volunteer organizations. Participants were instructed on proper techniques to get news in the media. A pamphlet was distributed which explained American policies concerning

engagements and weddings, obituary reporting, sports, beauty pageants, editorial and letters, and photographs.

Since the acquisition by Gannett, employee improvement workshops also have been developed. For example, on 13 March 1984, the American imported Bill Southerland from Gannett's Springfield (Missouri) Daily News to conduct a two-hour headline-writing workshop for newsroom employees engaged in writing headlines. As preparation for the workshop, Southerland had been reading and making notes on American headlines for the previous two months. Notebooks were distributed with exercises that the group worked and with ideas and suggestions for building worthwhile headlines. Part of the material had been condensed from a book entitled The Solid Gold Copy Editor. One editorial taboo unique to the American has been the banishment of "H'burg" from copy and headlines. Other Southerland pointers included: 1) Limit cuteness; don't be flip. 2) Attribute. 3) Distinguish between trend and fad. 4) Don't repeat directly from the story. 5) Don't use a question mark (?) in heads. 6) Structure not as important as tone. 7) Avoid past tense and gerunds.

An employee benefit that may be seen as a way to improve the quality of the American is the program of loaning ambitious, talented editors and reporters to USA TODAY headquarters in Washington for assignments lasting usually three months. One might perceive this opportunity as not unlike going to the Olympics; an

exciting career-development experience that would broaden and enrich the journalist and his colleagues upon his return. At Gannett, these loaners are not only paid a stipend, but they are given one free plane trip home a month and free lodging in apartments next to the office as well. Their old jobs are held for them unless they choose to stay on. A disadvantage to those left behind is that they must cover for their absent co-worker without replacement help.

Employee benefits rank high among Gannett's priorities. American employees now enjoy better health-care insurance, savings and stock ownership plans, tuition reimbursement, adoption assistance, and may participate in employee improvement programs. Ambition and talent are recognized as virtues and employees are encouraged to enter professional competitions and are rewarded appropriately if winners.

In 1985 the average Gannett employee was 38 years old with 8.5 years of service and earned an annual salary of \$22,000.⁹⁶ McCallister estimates that at the American employees are somewhat younger with less years of service to Gannett since the American is a recent Gannett acquisition. He refused to disclose an average annual salary figure but stated it is lower than the Gannett average but higher than the norm for papers of comparable size in Mississippi.⁹⁷

Pember noted that Gannett newspapers have good affirmative-action programs and donate considerable sums

annually to train minority journalists.⁹⁸

In this regard, Sutherland has increased newsroom integration to twenty percent, or five in twenty-six employees. When he came, no blacks were employed. Sutherland organized a Minority Affairs Committee to critique daily the paper's coverage of blacks, who make up a third of the community. He believes that professionalism should reflect that makeup in news columns and employee ranks. McCallister, however, took the lead at the American in this regard by forming the Black Advisory Group in January 1982:

To provide input to the management and editors concerning coverage and employment issues important to the black community.

As part of its mission the Hattiesburg American is committed to providing coverage to and of the total community. It is recognized that this represents a departure from previous practice and, if it is to be accomplished, guidance is needed.

If the advisory group does its job and the Hattiesburg American fulfills its commitment, at some point the American coverage will be color blind and the need for the advisory group will be no more. The American recognizes that there is much to accomplish before this is the case.⁹⁹

Because of the high quality of its four-color printing capability and because of its mid-Gulf geographical location, Gannett chose the Hattiesburg American plant as the twenty-first printing site for its national daily, USA TODAY (see Illustration 36).

"Locked-up" pages are transmitted by laser to the Westar III satellite, then beamed back to Earth to receiving satellite dishes (see Illustration 37) at printing sites across the country. Circulation covers from Memphis

NEWSLINE

HERE'S A QUICK READ ON THE TOP NEWS OF THE DAY.
AND A GUIDE TO ALL THE NEWS INSIDE.

NATION: About 30,000 demonstrators protested the nuclear arms race in Chicago this weekend. The march was the latest event in a nationwide protest effort that gathered strength in New England town meetings this winter. (Page 3A)

Maryland is about to raise its drinking age from 18 to 21. It is the 17th state to take the step in recent years, reversing a trend of the early '70s in an attempt to cut teenage fatalities in traffic accidents. (Page 3A)

The 1982 World's Fair is on schedule to open May 1, confounding skeptics who said Knoxville could never pull it off. The fair, on a 72-acre site, with exhibits from 23 countries and 54 U.S. corporations, is the work of high-rise Jake Dutcher. (Page 3A)

New Jersey lawmakers are off on a treasure hunt, planning to spend \$100,000 to find riches aboard a ship that sank off Ocean City in 1901. A \$4-million, 24-karat gold idol and china worth more than \$1 million may be found. (This and news from all of the 50 states. Pages 4A and 5A)

Also: A **Moody Easter** weekend in Miami, with 12 murders and suicides in less than 12 hours, was blamed in part on muggy weather and a full moon. ... U.S. eastman launch a year-long \$7-million advertising campaign today, trying to convince consumers through prime-time network ads that beef is worth the price. (Other national news. Page 3A)

WASHINGTON: A non-union President Reagan, back from a four-day "working vacation" in the Caribbean, will meet with Jewish community leaders today to discuss Middle East politics. His trip cost taxpayers \$3.5 million, by one estimate. (How a presidential trip is planned, other news. Page 3A)

The one advocate within the administration says Budget Director David Stockman may be suppressing figures suggesting he overestimated the 1982 federal deficit by as much as \$30 billion. One official said the projections maintain momentum in Congress for a tax increase and a cut in military spending, moves President Reagan has resisted.

Also: **Americans** answering a People magazine poll simultaneously noted Reagan the "most trusted" and the "least trusted" politician for 1982. ... Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said the nation that the U.S. could win a nuclear war is "madness," and urged the Reagan administration to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons.

WORLD: An American immigrant was arraigned in Jerusalem for a shooting spree in Islam's third holiest shrine. Two Arabs were killed and nine wounded, sparking Muslim riots in Israeli-held Palestinian territories. (Jerusalem, other world news. Page 3A)

El Salvador's politicians are struggling to put together a coalition of right-wing and moderate lawmakers for the newly-elected assembly. Moderates won 24 seats in last month's election, but right-wing parties won 53, giving them control. The U.S. has threatened to cut off aid to the war-torn country if moderates are excluded from the government. (Page 3A)

MONEY: Following the lead of Ford Motor Co., Chrysler Corp. said it will offer five years of free maintenance and warranties on all domestic cars, trucks. (Page 1B)

The Nation's Newspaper, USA TODAY, will begin regular publication Sept. 15 in the Washington, D.C. area and will expand on successive weeks into market clusters around Atlanta, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Pittsburgh. (Page 1B)

Also: **Americans** have pulled billions of dollars of their money out of strip institutions in what analysts believe is "a quiet run" on the troubled savings and loan industry. ... An executive with National Steel Corp. today, trying to convince consumers through prime-time network ads that beef is worth the price. (Other national news. Page 3A)

SPORTS: Rick Mahler threw his second consecutive shutout as the Atlanta Braves defeated the Houston Astros 5-0. The Braves' pitcher, who had won 11 games in 1981, was named MVP of the National League. (Page 1C)

The 1984 Olympics are two years away, but host city Los Angeles is already preparing for the worst. Security is the number-one headache. The city hopes to avoid the tempests and tragedies of the past. (Page 3C)

Also: **Alfonso Borg** announced he will skip the French Open, the first of the year's major championships in tennis. Borg says he'll announce his plans to skip the Wimbledon later. ... What Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did for men's college basketball. High schooler Cheryl Miller could do for the women's game. (This and other sports. Section C)

LIFE: Anne the movie is about to open in four U.S. cities, and critics are already saying it's one of the best. It's the story of the famous cartoon character (right) is getting up. (Page 1D)

Also: A new study reports husbands may share symptoms like morning sickness with their pregnant wives. ... Hard sell has started for opens star **Placido Domingo** who's after widespread appeal. (Details, other life news. Section D)

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(Content for this prototype edition is based on developments in the week ending April 11, 1982.)

TOMORROW: See you here, USA TODAY begins regular publication Sept. 15.

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IRS pinpoints biggest tax cheats

Hunts \$83 billion missing this year; Thursday is deadline for '81 returns

WASHINGTON — With the tax deadline only three days away, the Internal Revenue Service already knows that millions of cheating Americans are hiding \$83 billion in 1981 taxes.

The key evaders, according to the IRS, are not corporations or those involved in illegal activities, but regular Americans.

One group alone — administrators, contractors, physicians, lawyers and retail store operators — the people who don't draw a weekly paycheck but who work in sales and services or "non-farm business," as IRS calls

it — will cheat the government by underreporting \$20 billion, about 31 percent of this year's "missing" taxes. These estimates, the findings of a three-year IRS study, are contained in a not-yet-released report which the tax agency hopes to use to convince Congress of the need for after laws against cheating. The agency also wants to throw \$500 more agents into a crackdown on cheats.

The report pinpoints these major evaders: — Those who earn most of their money through tips — waitresses, bellhops, cabbies. They will report only about 20 cents on the dollar — a \$2.3 billion tax ripoff this year. — Those who earn capital gains, through sales of stocks, houses, cars, but fail to report them — an estimated \$1.1 billion loss this year. — Stockholders who

earn dividends but don't report them — \$3.0 billion. — Five or six million people, mostly small wage earners, who don't bother to file at all — \$4.9 billion. — Corporations, who will underreport \$3.9 billion. There is relatively little cheating here because corporate returns are closely audited, the IRS says. — Those who earn unreported illegal income (drugs, gambling, prostitution) — \$10.4 billion.

The IRS hasn't released any numbers on how many Americans cheat, but it says cheating is growing worse.

The agency's 1982 target calls for adding 5,000 "wast" people — roughly equivalent to people — into enforcement duties.

Among those, 3,000

See CHEATERS, 2A ▶



A fine spring day's chase across a famous lawn

At 1000 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, 30,000 people gathered on the South Lawn for the annual White House Easter egg roll. There were 8,000 Easter eggs to search for, a little race track for the egg rolling and an impressive list of celebrities: Ronald and Nancy Reagan, Spidey Man, the Easter Bunny and Ronald McDonald.

Haig back home; U.S. in no-win situation

WASHINGTON — A bonneted Secretary of State Alexander Haig flew home from London to update President Reagan on his so far unsuccessful efforts to solve the Falkland Islands crisis, a no-win situation for the U.S. in the view of some foreign policy analysts.

At the same time, it became evident that both the United States and the Soviet Union have been drawn into supporting roles in the Falkland Islands dispute. Despite official neutrality in the Argentine-British clash, both nations have so much at stake they can't afford to stay away completely.

The Soviets are reported to be helping Argentina by monitoring the progress of the British fleet across the Atlantic. Senior U.S. officials confirmed that similar American assistance is being provided to Britain. Jet fuel tanks have been topped off on Ascension Island in the mid-Atlantic for possible use by British warplanes. Under a 1982 joint-use agreement, the U.S. is obligated to make Ascension's airfield and fueling facilities available to the British. Britain also has asked for the use of a channel on a U.S. communications satellite, which would enable London to maintain direct contact with British submarines operating off the Falklands. —Special to USA TODAY (More details on Page 9A)

COVER STORY

Baby boom reshaping our families

'As two-paycheck families drive up the prices, the single-parent family ... will really feel it.'

The generation of Americans raised in the 1950s around a big family dinner table now faces on Campbell's soup-for-one. Baby-boom Americans — numbering almost one out of every three of us — are reshaping the American family in ways their parents never dreamed possible.

The proliferation of one-person and two-person households has dramatically shrunk the size of the American family. Average family size over the last decade fell from 3.1 to 2.7 members, and it fell in each of the country's 3,215 counties — no exceptions.

See COVER STORY, 2A ▶

In Little Havana, a 'miracle' tree

MIAMI — Hundreds of blind and crippled people are gathering daily around a Little Havana "miracle tree" they say cured the sight of a 92-year-old Cuban man. Alfredo Varona said his cataracts cleared up on Good Friday after he rubbed his eyes in water oozing from the tree's tannin, which can clear mucus caused by the cataracts.

—Special to USA TODAY

—Special to USA TODAY

USA SNAPSHOTS

A look at statistics that shape the nation

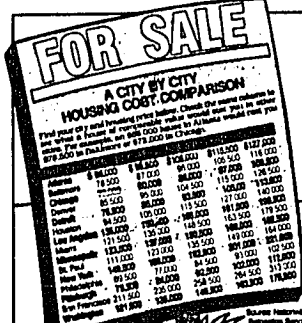


Illustration 36. Front Page of USA TODAY
Prototype III, April 1982

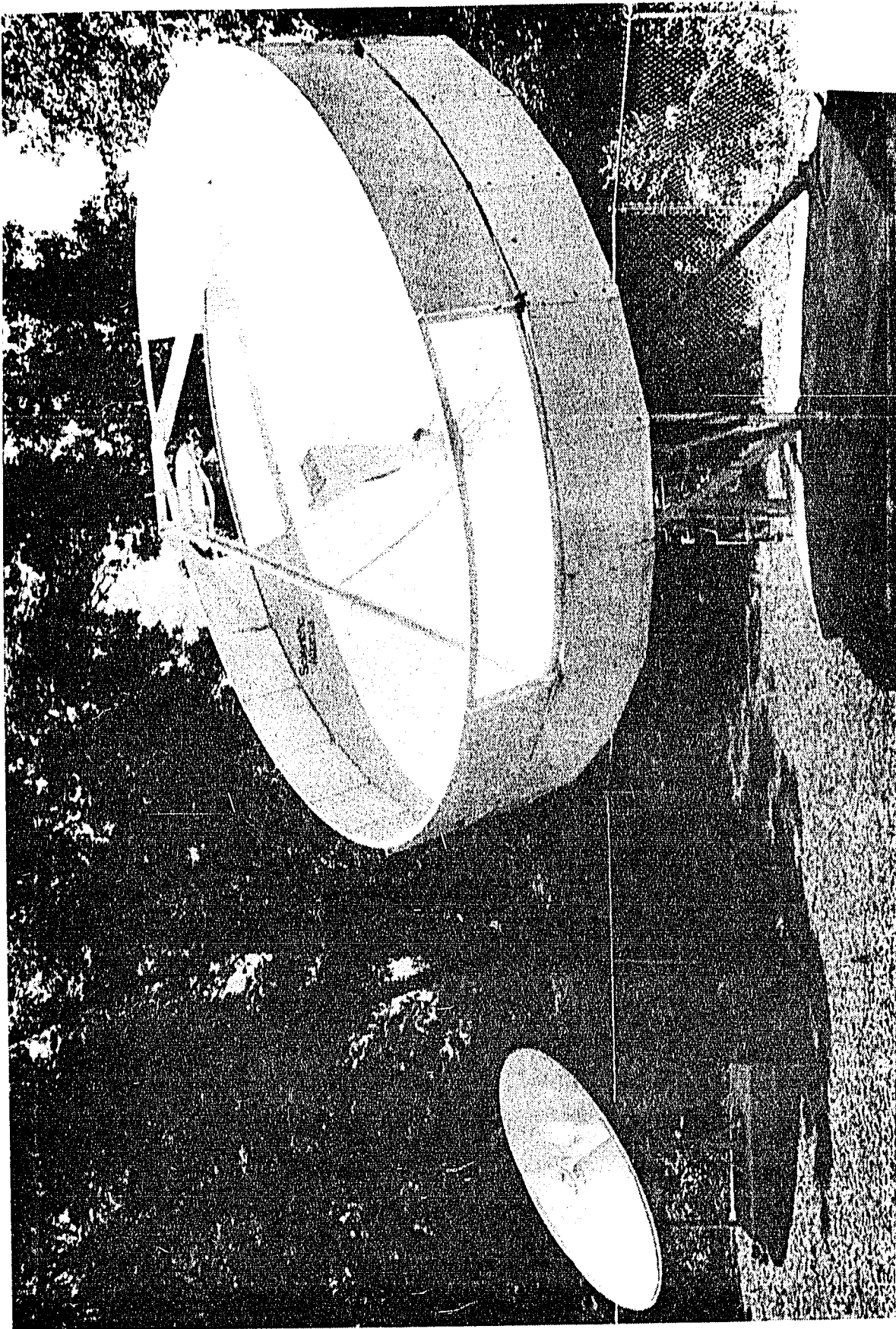


Illustration 37. Associated Press and USA TODAY Satellite Dishes, Behind American Plant

south to the Coast and from New Orleans east to Mobile and the Florida Panhandle, lending new meaning to Hattiesburg's old nickname, "The Hub City."

USA TODAY appeared first in the Baltimore-Washington area on 15 September 1982, and in Hattiesburg on 9 October 1983, publishing Monday through Friday and standardized into four sections--news, money, sports and life. Design innovations include the lavish use of color and graphics. Format is more influenced by television and magazines than by newspapers.

According to Bagdikian, "In the passion for an unholy trinity sweeping all American media--packaging, marketing, and graphics--it is easy to overlook a fundamental question about the latest innovation in newspapers, USA TODAY: how good is the paper journalistically?" In response to his own question, Bagdikian called it "a mediocre piece of journalism . . . the primacy of packagers and market analysts in a realm where the news judgment of reporters and editors has traditionally prevailed."¹⁰⁰

Neuharth has said, "We give readers what they want because we're in the business of selling news. . . . You can't ram an object down an unwilling throat, no matter what business you're in."¹⁰¹ Last year USA TODAY recorded the fastest growth in circulation of any newspaper in the nation's history.

In July 1981 a quarterly newsletter called The Third Edition (see Illustration 38) was initiated to

edition

Hattiesburg AMERICAN

Vol. 1 No. 1 July 1981

TO
the



MPA AWARD WINNERS pictured with incoming MPA president Jack Tannehill, left, are, from left, Gary Pettus, Sharon Wertz, Gene Phelps and Chuck Abadie. Not pictured is Mary Ann Wells.

Staffers bring home awards

Hattiesburg American staffers Gary Pettus and Sharon Wertz won first place awards in the Mississippi Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. Winners were announced June 19 at the association's awards breakfast held in conjunction with its annual convention at the Broadwater Beach Hotel in Biloxi.

Pettus received a first place award in the category of Best Pictorial Series in one issue. The award was for a series of pictures which accompanied an article by Bonnie

Bomboy on Children's World, a day-care center which has since closed.

Sharon Wertz received a first place award in the category of Best Investigative Series of Story. The award was for a series on handicapped children which was published in May of 1980. Included in the series were stories on "How Parents Cope," "How Schools Cope," and "Handicapped Kids: A Study in Courage and Determination."

Pettus also received a third place award for an investigative series on child abuse which was published in September of 1980.

(Continued on page 3)

Illustration 38. Front Page of The Third Edition
American Employee Newsletter
July 1981 (Vol. 1, No. 1)

inform employees of noteworthy accomplishments of co-workers, of activities in which the American is involved, and of major procedural changes. The newsletter introduces new employees, extends birthday greetings, covers the HAPCO (Hattiesburg American Publishing Company) softball team, lists favorite recipes and receives news from correspondents in each department--accounting, advertising, business, circulation, composing, mailroom, newsroom, platemaking, production, Petal Journal, USA TODAY.

Another publication is made available to employees, the Gannetteer, an 8 1/2-by-11 inch, full-color magazine for Gannett Group people, published at its Arlington, Virginia, corporate offices. Regular columns cover promotions, awards, personality and subsidiary profiles, Gannett Foundation grants, highlights of the annual meeting and issues concerning minorities, quality, reporter's privilege, role of the press and young readers. The American received a double-page spread in March 1985 when McCallister appeared on the Donahue Show to defend a tough ethics decision. In the 1983 edition of The Best of Gannett, a first-place was won by the American for flood coverage when 16 inches of rain fell in April causing flash floods, killing four people and forcing the evacuation of 5,500. Judges commented, "The American told readers what to expect and how to cope. The writing and photography were excellent. Equally impressive were the efforts of a

small staff working under adverse conditions."

An open house was held on 18 November 1984 to celebrate completion of a \$5.6 million expansion of the American plant executed in three phases (see Illustrations 39, 40, 41) over thirty months and that increased square footage from 17,400 to 33,500 and added much new state-of-the-art equipment. Production was expanded to accommodate the printing of USA TODAY, after which new office areas were planned. Press capacity was increased by 75 percent, enabling the American to run more pages and more color. New computer typesetting equipment (Compugraphic 8600) and video display terminals were installed and employees were trained to allow the newsroom and classified advertising department more direct control over type as it was set for publication. An interior of soft teal and beige wallpaper, more private conference and interview space, handy library and refinished desks helped to improve the formerly cramped and crowded conditions.

A Hattiesburg architect, Steve Blair, designed much of the last addition, while the first two phases were designed by the Austin Company, a Cleveland firm working out of Atlanta that had architects, engineers and construction experts in one place and specialized in fast jobs. Construction for the first two phases, not including equipment purchases, cost \$1.3 million. The third phase, office expansion, cost \$645,000 and added 6,800 square feet. Finlo Construction Company, Inc.,

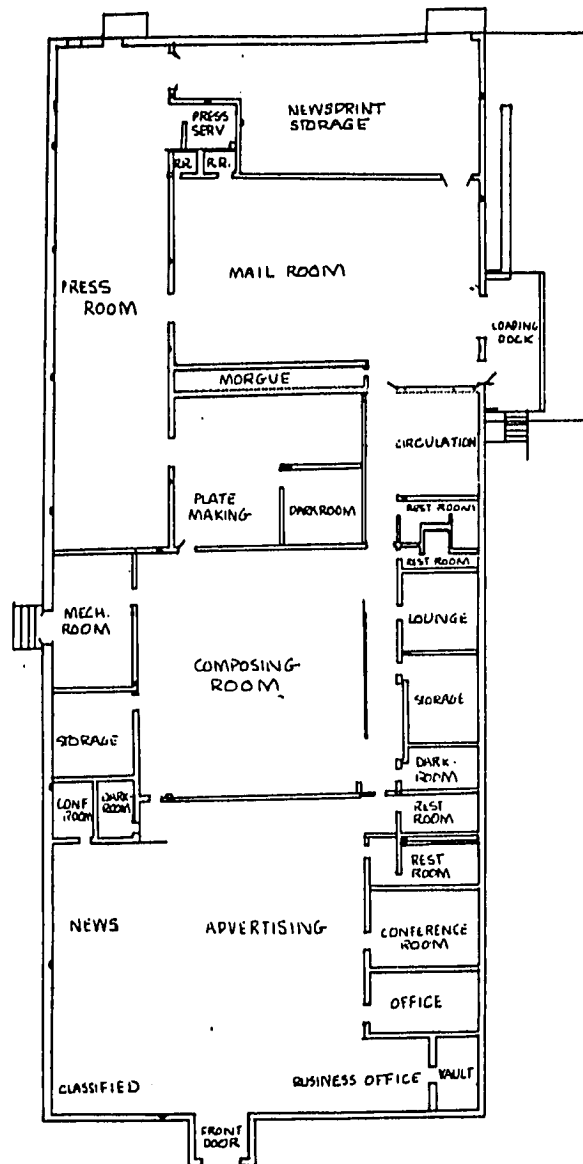


Illustration 39. Original Floor Plan
825 North Main Street

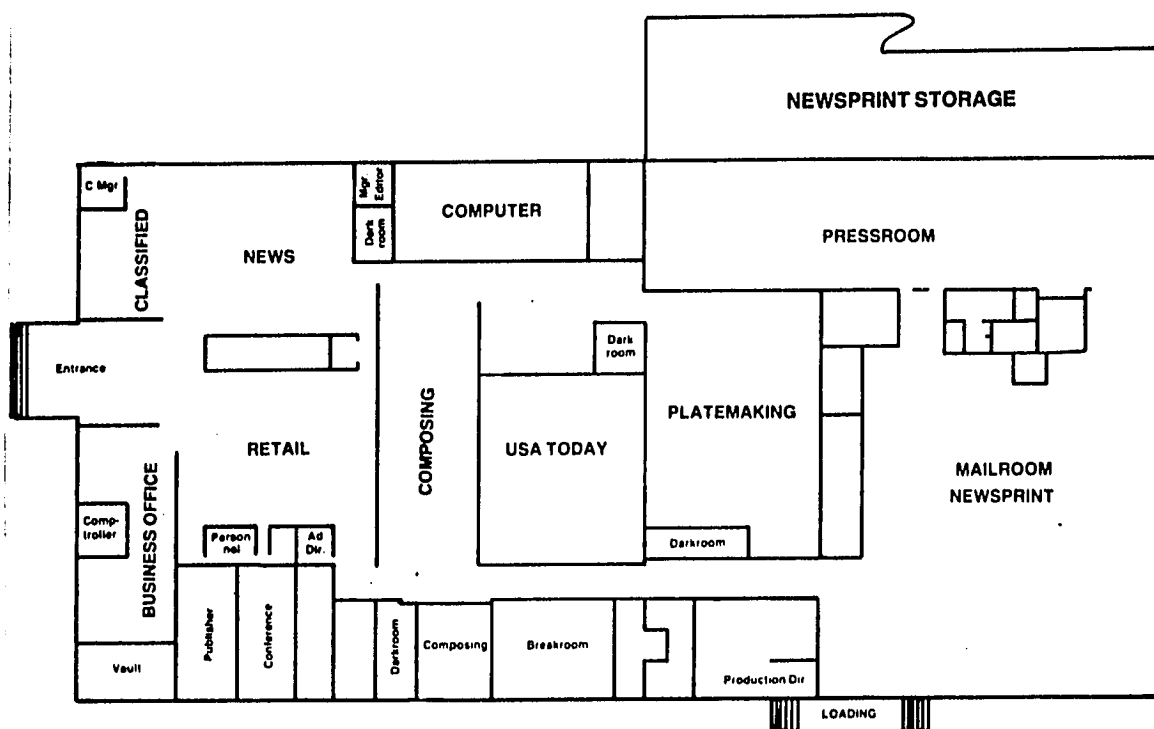
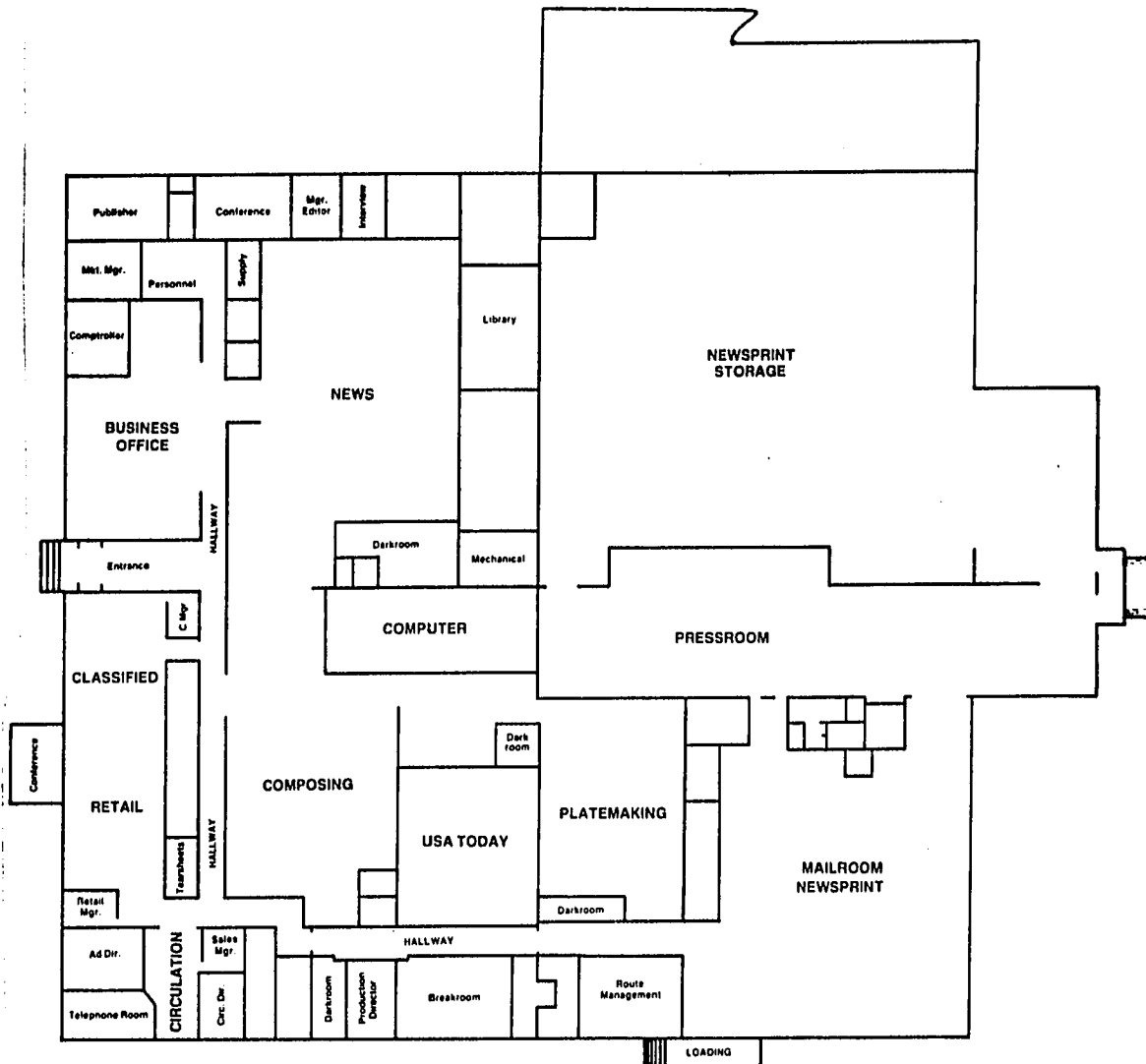


Illustration 40. Phase I Expansion.
825 North Main Street



**Illustration 41. Phase II and III Expansions
825 North Main Street**

Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was the main contractor on the third phase.¹⁰²

During the dedication ceremony, McCallister said that the expansion would allow the American to serve its readers and advertisers better and provide its employees with a more pleasant and productive work environment. The public was given guided tours of the new facility (see Illustrations 42 and 43) and employees were on hand in each department to explain its operation and answer questions. As part of the dedication ceremony a "Proclamation to Our Community" was presented and now hangs in the Hattiesburg American lobby :

WHEREAS, the Hattiesburg American today dedicates a new building to better serve its readers, advertisers, and employees; and,

WHEREAS, city, county and state officials are often asked to sign proclamations praising such efforts; and,

WHEREAS, we believe public officials should receive commitments of service from the private sector; and,

WHEREAS, the American recognizes that as a major employer in the area, it has obligations as a corporate citizen; and,

WHEREAS, the Hattiesburg American has a commitment to serve this city, county and state with responsible journalism;

NOW BE IT, THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Hattiesburg American dedicate these new facilities to the service of the people of Hattiesburg, Forrest County and Mississippi; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the American recommit its talent, energy and skills to producing a newspaper that honestly reflects and serves its city, county and state; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this pledge is presented this sixteenth day of November, 1984, to Mayor Bobby Chain of the City of Hattiesburg, Supervisor Lynn Cartlidge of Forrest County and State Representative Percy Watson of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Signed:

Duane K. McCallister

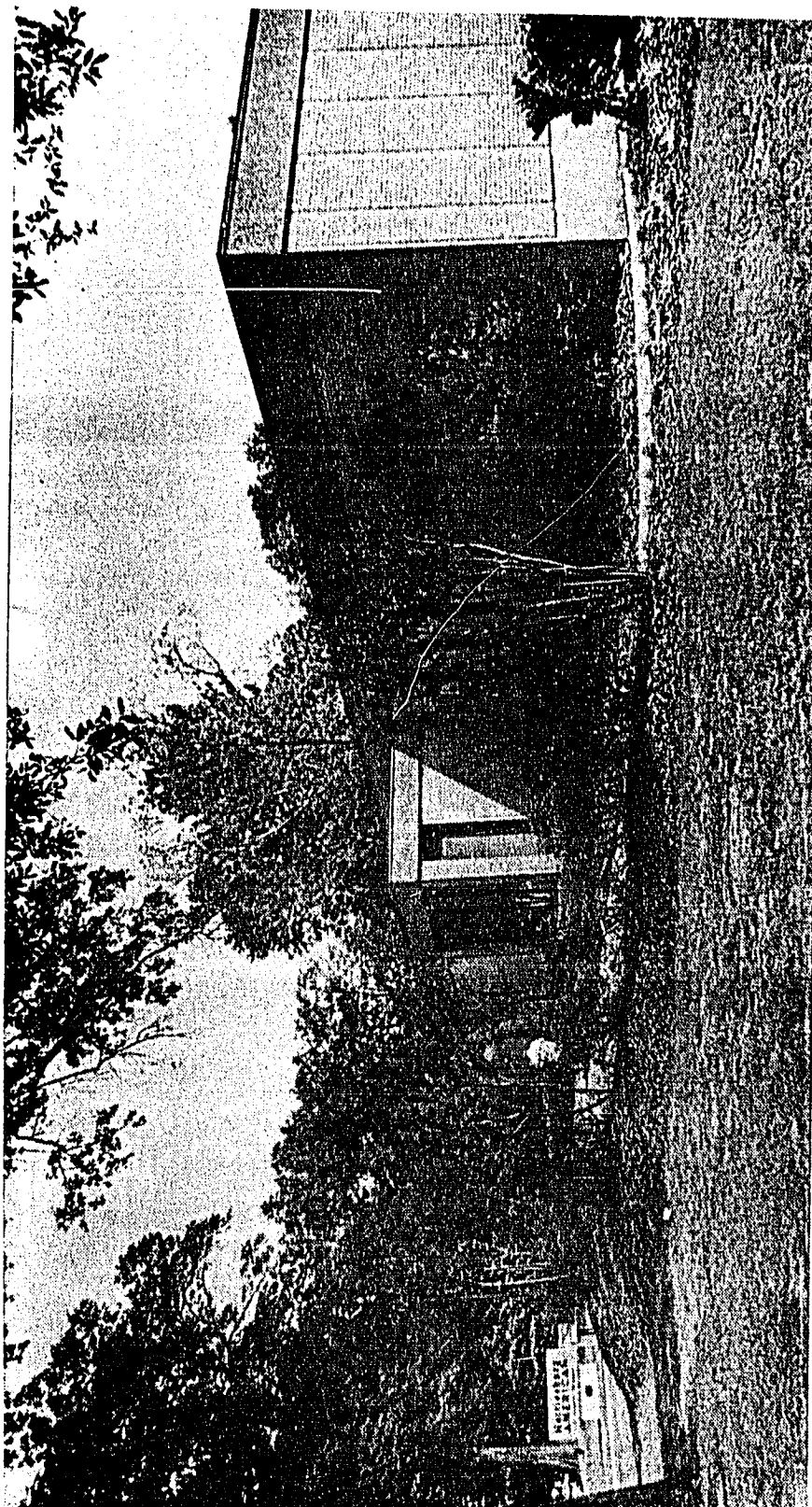


Illustration 42. American Building, 825 North Main Street, 1985

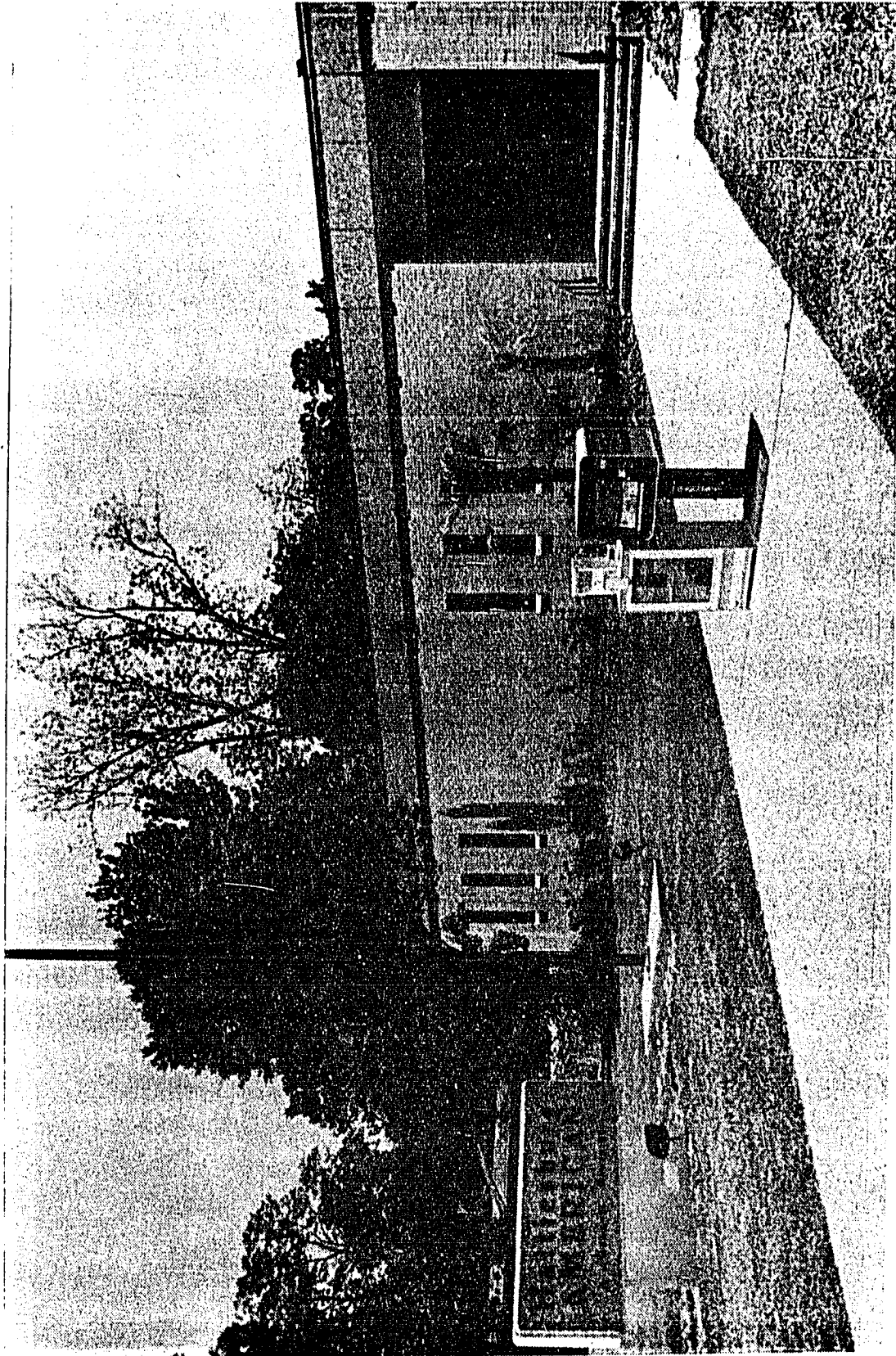


Illustration 43. American Building, 825 North Main Street, 1985

President and Publisher
Hattiesburg American

Witnessed:

Frank Sutherland, Managing Editor
Marti Emery, Controller
Jeffrey T. Reedy, Circulation Director
Larry Burlingame, Advertising Director
Doug Nobles, Production Director
Jess Hughes, Marketing Manager
Virginia Thomas, Personnel Manager

Planning for the future of the Hattiesburg American includes an interest in the establishment of a bureau of the Gannett News Service at the state capital in Jackson. Already GNS serves eleven capitals and two major cities. With three daily and five weekly properties in the state, this expansion of Gannett News Service would seem feasible. Gannett News Service won a 1980 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for Meritorious Public Service for a series on a Catholic order in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1983 the Gannett News Service received the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service from the Society of Professional Journalists.

As for the possibility of the American going from an afternoon to a morning newspaper, Gannett president and chief operating officer John Curley was quoted at AP Managing Editors Conference in Miami, "We are aggressively moving toward a.m. publication where we can and where research--or instinct--tells us we should. Wherever we cannot go a.m. because of press considerations, we ought to be on the street as early as we can be each day."¹⁰³

An internship program has been established and

plans are being made for its expansion, including a minority program.

END NOTES

¹Corporation Records, Chancery Clerk's Office, Forrest County, Book 1, p. 23.

²Hattiesburg American, 24 April 1984, p.7A.

³Telephone interview with son, Howard S. Williams, Jr., Indianapolis, Indiana, 21 February 1985.

⁴According to an undated letter from his daughter, Mrs. M. Shields Spiars, Greenville, Mississippi, postmarked 15 February 1985.

⁵Corporation Record, Forrest County, Book 1, p. 223.

⁶Hattiesburg American, 20 May 1919, p. 28.

⁷Vol. 22, No. 16, dated 21 January 1918, and found on microfilm at the University of Southern Mississippi Library, Hattiesburg.

⁸Hattiesburg American, 20 May 1919, p. 5.

⁹Ibid., p. 33.

¹⁰Officers were T. E. Warren, president; W. P. Bullard, vice president; C. C. Johnson, recording secretary; George F. Long, secretary-treasurer; and G. M. Gullett, sergeant-at-arms. Other charter members included L. F. Adam, H. E. Armstrong, W. O. Hendon, A. B. Hobbs, W. H. Hurt, J. L. Norton, T. L. Prater, A. J. Seeley and L. H. Zender, Ibid., p. 10.

¹¹Ayer's shows 1919 circulation at 4,160, and 1920, at 4,034.

¹²Hattiesburg American, 20 May 1919, p. 25.

¹³Ibid., p. 25.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 28.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 28.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 29.

¹⁹These photographs were borrowed through the courtesy of Williams' daughter, Mrs. Shields (Helen) Spiars, 1221 Kirk Circle, Greenville, Mississippi.

²⁰Williams interview, 21 February 1985.

²¹Hattiesburg American, 26 December 1922, p. 8.

²²Ibid., 8 December 1922, p. 8.

²³Ibid., p. 8.

²⁴Francis Stuart Harmon, comp. and ed., A Good Inheritance (New York: P & D Press, 1960), p. 92.

²⁵This information was found in the Papers of Evangelist Howard S. Williams, McCain Library, University of Southern Mississippi.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷New York Times, 15 April 1926, p. 2.

²⁸New York Times, 28 May 1921, p. 10.

²⁹Hattiesburg American, 23 February 1923, p. 1.

³⁰This information was taken from an undated clipping from the Democrat-Arqus, location unknown, that was furnished by Williams' son.

³¹New York Times, 4 November 1926, p. 47.

³²Ibid., 9 November 1926, p. 29.

³³Ibid., 4 June 1929.

³⁴Harmon, A Good Inheritance, p. 96-b.

³⁵Interview with Mary Harmon, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 27 May 1985.

³⁶Interview with Ben Lee, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 10 May 1985.

³⁷Hattiesburg American, 12 December 1963, p. 4.

³⁸Ibid, 14 December 1963, p. 1.

³⁹Harmon interview, 27 May 1985.

⁴⁰Interview with Elliott Chaze, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 23 November 1984.

⁴¹According to a telephone interview with his widow, Irene Loftus, 21 May 1985, no official reason was given, but she attributed his suicide to a combination of heavy drinking, low salary, mental illness in the family and job-related pressures, although he loved his work.

⁴²Hattiesburg American, 19 March 1968, p. 4.

⁴³Hattiesburg American, 23 February 1955, p. 1.

⁴⁴Ibid., 26 January 1960, p. 10.

⁴⁵Ibid., 1 October 1962, p. 1.

⁴⁶Ibid., 2 October 1962, p. 1.

⁴⁷Ibid., p. 10-A.

⁴⁸Ibid., 29 June 1964, p. 1.

⁴⁹Ibid.

⁵⁰Ibid., 30 June 1964, p. 4.

⁵¹Ibid., 5 April 1968, p. 4.

⁵²Ben Lee, "Modern Equipment and Our New Building Represent Investment in Hub City's Future," Hattiesburg American, 29 July 1972.

⁵³While industry-wide practice may

consider this late, the first Hattiesburg American Sunday circulation figure (19,522) did not appear in Ayer's until 1975.

⁵⁴ Hattiesburg American, 5 August 1973, p. 34.

⁵⁵ Frank Luther Mott, American Journalism: A History of Newspapers in the United States Through 260 Years, 1690 to 1950, rev. ed. (New York: Macmillan, 1950), p. 318.

⁵⁶ Interview with Fitz McCoy, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 23 June 1985.

⁵⁷ Undated personal correspondence postmarked 9 March 1985.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid. In a personal interview with Robert M. Hederman, III, 30 May 1985, most of these figures were disputed as being exaggerated, but corrected figures were refused.

⁶¹ The Mississippi Press, October, 1978.

⁶² Telephone interview with Mrs. R. G. Lowrey, Leonard Lowrey's 87-year-old mother, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 24 April 1985.

⁶³ Hattiesburg American, 25 December 1982, p. 1.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ W. E. Porter, "The Media Baronies: Bigger, Fewer, More Powerful," in What's News: The Media in American Society, ed. E. Abel (San Francisco: Institute for Contemporary Studies, 1981), p. 102.

⁶⁷ Benjamin M. Compaine, The Newspaper Industry in the 1980s: An Assessment of Economics and Technology (White Plains, New York: Knowledge Industry Publication, 1980), p. 235.

⁶⁸ Hattiesburg American, 1 April 1982, p. 2.

⁶⁹ Wall Street Journal, 2 April 1982, p. 4.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Andrew Radolf, "New Gannett Direction: Regional Newspapers," Editor & Publisher 112 (1 September 1979):16.

⁷² Interview with Duane K. McCallister, Hattiesburg American, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 24 April 1985.

⁷³ Hattiesburg American, 4 April 1982, p. 2B.

⁷⁴ McCallister interview, 24 April 1985.

⁷⁵ Nobles was asked, but refused to disclose the press run, since USA TODAY is perceived somewhat as a job-shop customer.

⁷⁶ Hattiesburg American, 4 June 1985, p. 1.

⁷⁷ Publishers' Auxiliary, 20 May 1985, p. 13.

⁷⁸ Fred S. Siebert, Theodore Peterson, and Wilbur Schramm, Four Theories of the Press (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1974), p. 44.

⁷⁹ Interview with Frank Sutherland, Hattiesburg American, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 30 April 1985.

⁸⁰ Daily single-copy rates went from 15 cents during 1980 to 20 cents in 1981 to 25 cents in 1983 to 35 cents in 1985. Sunday singles went from 35 cents during 1980 to 75 cents in 1983.

⁸¹ Interview with James Clark, Hattiesburg American, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 1 May 1985.

⁸² Daniel Riffe and Eugene F. Shaw, "Pricing a Medium Out of the Market: The 25-Cent Daily Newspaper," Journalism Quarterly 57 (Autumn 1980):385, 391.

⁸³ Gannett Co., Inc., Annual Report, 1984 (Washington, D.C.: Gannett Co., Inc., 1984), p. 54-55.

⁸⁴Oswald Garrison Villard, "The Press Today: The Chain Daily," The Nation 130 (21 May 1930):596.

⁸⁵George L. Bird and Frederic E. Merwin, The Newspaper and Society: A Book of Readings (New York: Prentice-Hall, 1942), p. 443.

⁸⁶McCallister interview, 31 May 1985.

⁸⁷Ibid.

⁸⁸Ben H. Bagdikian, The Effete Conspiracy and Other Crimes by the Press (New York: Harper & Row, 1972), p. 11.

⁸⁹Villard, "The Press Today," p. 597.

⁹⁰Ibid.

⁹¹Samuel Thurston Williamson, Imprint of a Publisher: The Story of Frank Gannett and His Independent Newspapers (New York: Robert M. McBride, 1948), p. 162.

⁹²Bagdikian, Media Monopoly, p. 91.

⁹³R. Reeves, "The Press's Great Threat," Esquire (August 1978):13.

⁹⁴Bird and Merwin, Newspaper and Society, p. 449.

⁹⁵Bagdikian, Media Monopoly, p. 90.

⁹⁶Paul Lacy, "Gannett Employees Enter 1985 as Changed, 'Middle-Aging' Group," Gannetteer (January-February 1985):21.

⁹⁷McCallister interview, 31 May 1985.

⁹⁸Don R. Pember, Mass Media in America, 3rd ed. (Chicago: Science Research Associates, 1981), p. 83.

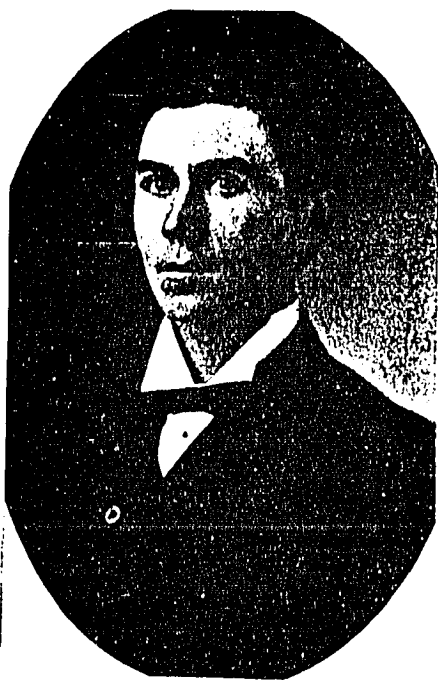
⁹⁹McCallister interview, 31 May 1985.

¹⁰⁰Bagdikian, Media Monopoly, p. 32-33.

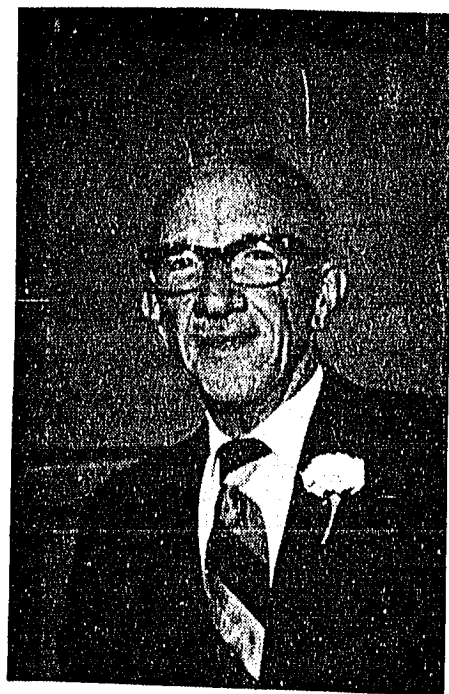
¹⁰¹N. R. Kleinfeld, "The Great Press Chain," New York Times, 8 April 1979, p. 52.

¹⁰²Major subcontractors were Builders Supply Co.; C. L. Dews & Sons Foundry and Machine Company, Inc.; Dye and Gunn Plumbing and Heating; Fisher's Nursery and Landscaping; Hattiesburg Paint & Decorating; JLD Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Ladner Testing Laboratories, Inc.; E. Cornell Malone Corporation Roofing Contractors; Mid South Glass Company; Mississippi Electro Painting, Inc.; Office Supply Company; Roach Cabinet and Millwork, Inc.; Roberts Ceramic Tile Company, Inc.; Smith Painting & Contracting, Inc.; Southeastern Automatic Sprinkler Company, Inc.; Southeastern Concrete Company, Inc.; and Warren Paving, Inc.

¹⁰³American Way, 5 December 1984.



A. Robert S. Hall



B. C. G. Andrews Harmon



C. Francis Stuart Harmon



D. Gus Shaw Harmon

Illustration 44. Some Newspaper People of Hattiesburg



E. Robert M. Hederman, III



F. Leonard Lowrey



G. Samuel B. Martin



H. Duane K. McCallister

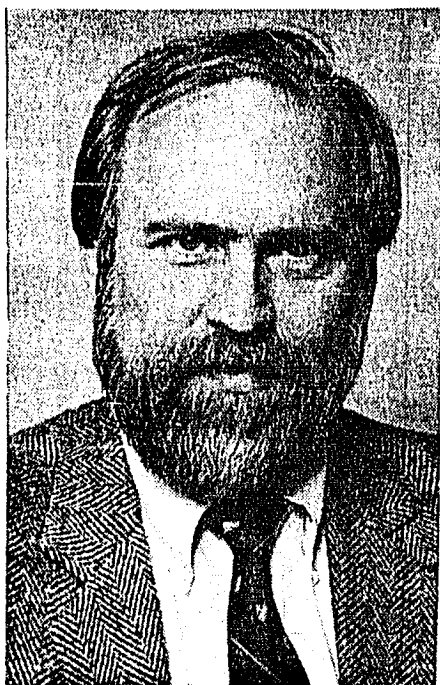
Illustration 44. Some Newspaper People of Hattiesburg



I. Larry St. John



J. Thomas St. John



K. Frank Sutherland



L. George R. Wanstrath

Illustration 44. Some Newspaper People of Hattiesburg



M. Howard S. Williams

Illustration 44. Some Newspaper People of Hattiesburg

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This study deals with a history of the Hattiesburg American and its predecessors. Though at times somewhat lagging behind journalistic trends, these newspapers have contributed a valuable service to their customers in Hattiesburg and the surrounding area for the past one hundred years, dating back at least to 1885 when the Herald began to publish the town ordinances.

Appendix A lists and briefly describes the newspapers of Hattiesburg that are part of this study. They have campaigned for town improvements, supported law and order, promoted the expansion of business and suffered through fire, flood, war and economic depression.

Some of the newspaper people of Hattiesburg are mentioned briefly in Appendix B. Hundreds of others, whose life work has not been mentioned, also worked on these papers.

Of the forty-two newspapers found to have existed in Hattiesburg, seven are classified as not "true" newspapers, ten have vanished completely and only a single copy remains of seven. Six had partial runs and the balance represent name derivations.

The Hattiesburg American traces its ancestry back to the Hattiesburg News, which was founded as a weekly in 1897. The first issue to bear the American name, which was selected as a patriotic expression by the new owner, was dated 1 October 1917. It was locally owned and managed until it was bought by the Hederman family of Jackson in 1960. In 1982 the Hattiesburg American became a member of the Gannett Group, continuing a tradition laid down by Frank E. Gannett--the marriage of journalism and business.

Today the American finds itself residing comfortably in its newly expanded and renovated plant. Since April 1982 equipment and expansion costs amount to more than \$5.6 million. Employees are striving for a brighter future as the effects of new ownership and its resulting change stabilize conditions and become acclimated to the area.

Conclusions

The Hattiesburg American and its predecessors have provided a valuable service to their readers through a changing world for more than one hundred years. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulation report for the twelve months ending 31 December 1984, total average paid circulation was 24,593, evening; 26,607, Sunday. The estimated retail trading zone had a population of 96,800 in 33,000 occupied households.

Since its inception, the American has been

cloaked in the pall of deeply religious editors--Williams, Harmon, Lowrey--whose influence permeated the community with a fatherly, Pollyanna aura, reminiscent of earlier days when the Southern patriarchy held sway over family, land, slaves, business. Their newspapers almost had a protective patronage approach to journalism in dealing with the community.

Some of the editors displayed a personal journalistic quality, confessing their sins in the newspaper with a sense of family, as part of the intimate social structure of Hattiesburg. Mary Oliphant described the activity around her desk as people read her work. The cultural climate definitely was different from that found in a big-city newspaper--more personal, warmer, having an open quality. For better or worse, the ambience has changed. No longer is it possible to barter for subscriptions or advertising. Some of the personal qualities have been lost. Technology has advanced from Seitzler's typesetting machine of 1902 to satellite dishes in 1982, linking Hattiesburg to the international arena of information. Design and layout have become better organized, makeup has been modernized, and the use of color and graphics is striking.

The Hattiesburg American is a long-established and well-respected small-town daily. Following its acquisition by Gannett, numerous philosophical and technological changes were incorporated into the new

multi-million-dollar plant. This includes the printing of Gannett's national daily, USA TODAY, which commenced 9 October 1983 from the American plant. USA TODAY is not in competition with the American for circulation since it carries no local news or advertising. It is designed to be a secondary, supplemental newspaper that is read in addition to the local paper. USA TODAY carries liquor advertising which required a court ruling since Mississippi law prohibits liquor advertisements in papers printed and distributed in the state. Ironically, Frank Gannett, throughout his life, was steadfast in his conviction to bar all liquor advertising in his papers.

The newspapers of Hattiesburg, their style and development, may be considered as typical of American Journalism. Today the American considers itself a conservative, Democratic newspaper, concerned with keeping its readers informed, entertained and educated through news and features, and with making money through advertising and subscriptions. Gannett grants local autonomy. Editorially, the current viewpoint tends toward telling the readership more than one side to a given situation and letting it decide for itself how to react. The protective patriarchal shell has been removed, exposing new attitudes. News and opinion have been actively sought from the black community. Hiring practices have been revised and modernized. The minority newshole has become a daily concern.

Hattiesburg has remained a typical, one-newspaper town. Gannett papers are mostly in small- to medium-sized cities, virtually free of direct competition. Gannett tends to concentrate on long-range potential rather than immediate profit returns. The issues concerning chain ownership are as applicable in Hattiesburg as they are anywhere else and concern absentee ownership, control of editorial opinion, political motives of power and standardization of copy and format. For a time shortly after USA TODAY commenced printing in Hattiesburg, the American was accused of duplicating its format, but the problem has been corrected.

Since Gannett, the American has increased in size, been divided into sections and created new departments. More color is being used, especially on the first pages of the sections. Besides the Associated Press wire service, the Gannett News Service wire also is used now.

Human nature seems to dictate a reluctance in the acceptance of change. Hattiesburg residents are no exception, but seem to be faring quite well with their paper under its new ownership. There were persistent rumors that a local group tried to buy out the Hedermans when it was learned they intended to sell to Gannett, but these could not be substantiated.

Gannett is a huge, well-managed corporate organization; a nationwide diversified news and information company; the nation's largest newspaper group. Since it went public by listing on the New York Stock Exchange in 1967, it has not reported a single down quarter. This strong financial performance makes it a favorite on Wall Street. It regularly acquires new properties and occasionally disposes of the dregs.

The history of the newspapers and newspaper people of Hattiesburg has been worthwhile and colorful. In good times they multiplied and prospered; in bad times they suffered with the rest of the town; always they represented what they believed was best for their town.

As the American prepares for its future, it may do so with pride and confidence. Its plant is modern, its financial backing is sound and its editorial staff is pursuing an enlightened, balanced journalism, equipped with state-of-the-art news-gathering equipment.

Recommendations

Reflection on the newspapers of Hattiesburg during the past century of publication has allowed this writer to envision vicariously some of the activity and characteristics of these newspapers as well as their editors and publishers.

Individual accomplishments and unique personality traits of various editors and publishers through the years warrant the preparation of biographical studies on

many of them. For example, W. H. Seitzler, editor of the Progress, was known for his witticisms. These could be extracted from the Progress and compiled into a single volume. Dobbins was another outstanding newspaperman whose journalistic career would make a companion volume for the biography entitled Gaines S. Dobbins: Pioneer in Religious Education written by his son, Austin C. Dobbins of Birmingham, Alabama. The collected papers of Howard S. Williams, newspaperman turned evangelist, have been deposited in the McCain Library and could be edited and published in book form. Williams published the preachings of revivalist Gipsy Smith, Jr., in their entirety in the Hattiesburg American, along with much interesting sidebar information, enough to publish in book form. Other Hattiesburg residents whose lives and times, including their journalistic careers, are worthy of in-depth study include Robert S. Hall, Edgar Garrard Harris, J. J. Haynie, Robert M. Hederman, III, Walter Nesbitt Hurt, Frank D. Lander, Leonard Lowrey, Samuel Blair Martin, Frank Sutherland, among others.

There is no comprehensive history of the Mississippi Press Association which was founded in 1866. Histories of other state press associations could be used as a guide.

One of the weekly newspapers that Gannett acquired with the Hattiesburg American was the Lumberton Headblock. Originally it was founded in the 1880s and,

because it was not a profitable enterprise, Gannett permanently closed it down on 7 April 1983. The premises were vacated and all files and records stored in an American warehouse in Hattiesburg. The life span of this country weekly is worthy of thesis consideration.

Content analysis studies of the coverage of major American events from Reconstruction to landing a man on the moon could be made, along with any number of studies devoted to advertising content. The current managing editor of the Hattiesburg American would like to see a research paper devoted to a column-inch count of local versus non-local news. He feels that since the death of Leonard Lowrey, subscribers have the mistaken impression that the Hattiesburg American is running less local news. Perhaps a statistical comparison could be made of the two editors' newsholes and the results could be compared further with selected Gannett and non-Gannett papers of similar circulation size. Or, using the American and the Jackson newspapers, a design comparison could be made of pre-Gannett and post-Gannett front-page formats, including their similarity with the innovative design format of Gannett's USA TODAY.

A careful study should be undertaken to determine the cause and effect of the shifts (increases and decreases) in circulation over extended periods of time and in consideration of papers of similar size and of world events and economic conditions.

A feasibility study should be undertaken for the establishment of a bureau of Gannett News Service at the state capital, Jackson. According to the 1984 Annual Report, Gannett News Service, Inc., is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, and has bureaus in Albany, New York; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Columbus, Ohio; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Indianapolis, Indiana; Lansing, Michigan; New York, New York; Olympia, Washington; Sacramento, California; Springfield, Illinois; Tallahassee, Florida; and Trenton, New Jersey. Excluding Arlington and New York, the rest are state capitals. Contacts could be made with these as to how, why and when they were established. Principal participants in Jackson could be interviewed as to their reactions on the establishment of a bureau.

More research seems needed in the business management of newspapers, though statistics other than those already routinely published are not available because of competition within media circles.

A pictorial history would prove valuable, perhaps of front-page formats or of advertising design and layout.

The matter of the civil rights movement in Mississippi remains delicate and sensitive. A more thorough analysis of Mississippi's role in the civil rights movement needs to be explored. This was the biggest, most important, most fundamental issue faced by

the South since Reconstruction. More attention needs to be devoted to the issue of the newspaper's role in the civil rights struggle during the post-World War II period in Hattiesburg and elsewhere.

This dissertation is just a beginning. It could serve as model to encourage others to further the interests of Journalism in Mississippi and elsewhere by using newspapers as a primary source in historical research. It represents how fertile and colorful this area of Journalism history can be with a little digging.

APPENDIX A

THE NEWSPAPERS OF HATTIESBURG

(Those in parenthesis are not considered "true" newspapers, according to the definition by Emery and Emery, but are included here for historical reference.)

(THE ADVERTISER--founded 15 July 1982. Published by Century Publication, 4015 Hardy Street, Suite D, Hattiesburg, Jim Clinton, publisher. A free-circulation paper distributed on Wednesday to 23,000 homes in Forrest and Lamar Counties, with slogan "Hattiesburg's largest circulation paper." Name changed to ADVERTISER NEWS commencing with Vol. 3, No. 30, 30 January 1985, and including birth and death announcements, marriage license applications and events of interest.)

AMERICAN CITIZEN--Corporation Records (1897) show R. S. Hall, publisher, weekly, Vol. 6, No. 2, appearing 7 October 1897; No. 3, 14 October; No. 4, 21 October; No. 5, 28 October 1897. Rowell (1898) states Fridays; democratic; 4 pages; 18 by 24; \$1 subscription; established 1892; Harris & Harris, editors and publishers; circulation estimated at less than 1,000. City Minutes (1897-98) show R. S. Hall, publisher of the weekly, elected to do public printing for \$20 a year. No known extant issues of AMERICAN CITIZEN. City Minutes (7 January 1901) show name change to HATTIESBURG AMERICAN CITIZEN immediately after which AMERICAN was dropped, leaving the HATTIESBURG CITIZEN and subsequently known as that. On 11 December 1901, the charter of incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co. was approved. Principals were B. C. Hemphill, W. W. Massengale, A. K. McInnis, E. G. O'Ferrall, R. S. Hall (as publisher, Vol. 10, 1901), H. V. Leverett, C. W. Rich, B. M. Moffett, R. E. L. Eaton, A. S. Pelts and J. M. Stevens. The capital stock of \$5,000 was divided into 20 shares of \$25 each. Corporation Records show five different publishers from 1902-06: C. C. Johnson, Vol. 11, 1902; W. L. Booth, 1902-03; William F. Gray, Vol. 12, 1903; J. D. Richardson, Vol. 13, 1904; and James L. McGowan, Vol. 14, 1906. According to 1905 Ayers, Richardson was editor and publisher, and this 8-page, 15-by-22-inch paper appeared on Friday, was established in 1892, was politically Democratic, subscription was \$1 and circulation was 800. Extant issue of HATTIESBURG WEEKLY CITIZEN found courtesy of Mrs. Lora Redus Garner, via Mrs. Austin White, 101

Sangria Drive, Hattiesburg, is Vol. 14, No. 40, Friday, 25 May 1906, shows James L. McGowan, editor; R. W. Brooks, associate editor; 6 column by 22 inches; annual subscription \$1 in advance. Corporation Records show WEEKLY CITIZEN with Ben S. Dever, publisher, 1921; J. Frank Smith, business manager and publisher, 1923; and publishers C. F. Hoffman, 1924-25; G. Andrews Harmon, 1925; W. S. Britton, 1927; R. L. Bennett, 1927-29.

BEACON LIGHT--founded 1913 and ran until 1915. A black weekly, according to McGhee dissertation. No known extant issues.

BUSY BEE--W. C. Faye, editor, at least for Thursday, 31 January 1907 (Vol. 1, No. 4), 7 February (No. 5), 14 February (No. 6), 21 February (No. 7), according to Corporation Records. No known extant issues.

(THE CHRONICLE--free distribution, 6-column broadsheet, Vol. 1, No. 1, with 12 pages appeared Thursday, 2 May 1985. Flag reads, "A Little Good News...", Hattiesburg's largest circulation newspaper, circulation 27,611 by U.S. mail," bulk rate, Permit 219. Janice S. Lowery, editor. Published by Line Design Typographers, office at 2119 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg. Ceased publication after five issues.)

(THE DAILY SQUIBS--free distribution, two-page, 11 inches by 15 inches, published by Dever Printing Co. Two extant issues found courtesy of Mrs. A. T. Tatum, 110 Pinehurst, Hattiesburg: Vol. 1, No. 187 (10 May 1923); Vol. 1, No. 192 (16 May 1923), indicating daily publication except Sunday.)

THE DEMOCRAT--official town Journal in 1887 and 1888 with J. M. Williamson, publisher and editor. Extant issue found courtesy of Mrs. S. G. (Mollie) Jordan, Mollie's Florist Shoppe, 114 North Main Street, Petal; Vol. 9, No. 1, Thursday, 4 January 1894; official organ of Perry County; Mary Oliphant, editor and proprietor. Subscription: \$1 a year in advance.

FORREST COUNTY ITEM--see PERRY COUNTY ITEM.

FORREST COUNTY NEWS--weekly, probably established 1932 as the HUB BREEZE, according to Mississippi Newspapers. Jackson Archives has 3 December 1936 through 22 April 1937, when it ceased publication. 3 December 1936 was Vol. 4, No. 41, with Ted F. Lovell, editor, publishing on Thursday.

GALAXY--a black weekly edited by Arthur R. Magee that was to begin publication 25 May 1979, according to

13 May 1979 HATTIESBURG AMERICAN (p. B-5). No known extant issues.

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN--an afternoon daily from Monday through Friday and a morning paper on Saturday and Sunday, officially established 1 October 1917, but continuing the volume number of its predecessor, the HATTIESBURG NEWS. By 13 October 1917, Howard S. Williams was shown as editor. According to 1919 Ayers, this 7-column, politically independent paper was founded in 1917, appeared evenings except Sunday, subscription \$7.80, sworn circulation was 4,160, and Williams was editor and publisher. The same information appears in 1920 Ayers, except circulation is 4,034 by post office statement. G. S. Harmon became editor 23 February 1923, remaining until 1 January 1927, when his son, Francis Stuart Harmon became editor and publisher. On 27 February 1934, another son, C. G. Andrews Harmon, became editor and Thomas St. John, business manager, though, from 9 November 1917 to 3 May 1961, St. John signed Corporation Records as publisher. By 1940 C. G. Andrews Harmon, editor; Hattiesburg American, Inc., publisher. On 14 June 1960, Francis and Andrews Harmon and Thomas St. John sold the AMERICAN to the Hattiesburg Publishing Co., which was owned by the Hederman family (Robert M., Jr.; Tom; Henry; and Zach T.) of Jackson. It became a member of the Gannett Group 1 April 1982, along with other Hederman papers including two dailies: CLARION-LEDGER and JACKSON DAILY NEWS, and six weeklies: CLINTON NEWS, GAUTIER INDEPENDENT, LUMBERTON HEADBLOCK, MADISON COUNTY HERALD, OCEAN SPRINGS RECORD and PEARL PRESS CHRONICLE. Jackson Archives has microfilmed copies 8 April 1918 to date. Hattiesburg Public Library and USM have identical microfilmed holdings: 21 January 1918 to date, with some gaps. HATTIESBURG AMERICAN morgue has bound copies of October 1917 to date, and microfilmed copies of 1940 to date.

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN CITIZEN--see AMERICAN CITIZEN.

HATTIESBURG BULLETIN--weekly on Monday; 18 January 1932 was Vol. 1, No. 1; Arnold Heidt, publisher. May have ceased publication after 29 February 1932 issue. No known extant issues. Extant issues mentioned in Mississippi Newspapers (1942) no longer exist.

HATTIESBURG CITIZEN--see AMERICAN CITIZEN.

HATTIESBURG COURIER--named the town printer for 1889 and 1891 for \$20 a year, editor was H. J. Harris. E. H. Harris was elected public printer for \$30 in 1892. H. J. Harris to do public printing for \$39 in 1893. Harris & Harris to do public printing for \$12 in 1894.

H. J. Harris awarded town printing for \$20 a year in 1895 and 1896. No known extant issues.

HATTIESBURG DAILY NEWS--see HATTIESBURG NEWS.

HATTIESBURG DAILY PROGRESS--see HATTIESBURG PROGRESS.

HATTIESBURG EVENING POST--I. W. L. Booth was publisher of this daily, 27 June 1903 was Vol. 1, No. 101; 4 July, No. 108; 11 July, No. 115; 22 August, No. 148; 29 August, No. 154; and 5 September 1903, No. 160, according to Corporation Records. No known extant issues.

HATTIESBURG GAZETTE--official organ of Perry County in 1896, Charles Hall, editor and proprietor. Extant issue found courtesy of Mrs. E. H. Beaumont, 214 Ford Drive, Petal, is Vol. 1, No. 19, 19 March 1896; official organ of Perry County, published weekly on Thursday. The Rev. L. E. Hall (of the Baptist Church) is corresponding editor and soliciting agent.

HATTIESBURG HERALD--published first town ordinances, 1885. According to 1885 Ayers, this 4-page, 22-by-33-inch paper appeared on Saturday, was established in 1884, was politically Democratic and 10 lines of advertising for one month cost \$2.50. No circulation figure for the paper or population figure for Hattiesburg is given; population for Perry County was 3,427. F. D. Lander, Jr., publisher, daily HATTIESBURG HERALD in September 1917, according to Corporation Record. No known extant issues.

HATTIESBURG INDEPENDENT--weekly; C. A. McDonald, editor and publisher; Mary McDonald, advertising manager; published Friday morning with guaranteed distribution of 1,000, four pages. Office at 114 1/2 Front Street, over Cole's Studio. Subscription \$1.50 a year in advance. Jackson Archives has one issue: 23 August 1935 (Vol. 1, No. 17). Extant issue mentioned in Mississippi Newspapers (1942) no longer exists.

HATTIESBURG NEWS--probably started as a weekly in 1897, according to Mississippiana. An incomplete issue (30 June 1909) found courtesy of Sue Hatten, Green Tree Apartments, Hattiesburg. Corporation Records indicate HATTIESBURG DAILY NEWS with Macey Dinkins, secretary-treasurer, Vol. 1, 1907; DAILY dropped commencing with A. B. Hobbs, printer, Vol. 2, 1908, publisher and manager, 1914; J. T. McLean, no title given, 1909; Mort L. Bixler, publisher and manager, 1909; D. Meeks, publisher, 1909; E. R. Farrell, manager, 1909, publisher, 1910-13. According to Mississippiana, F. D. Lander became editor by 8 January 1910; shown in 1913

Corporation Records; also F. D. Lander, Jr., publisher, 1914-17; Thomas St. John, publisher, 1914-15 and 1920. On 16 October 1908, the charter of incorporation of the NEWS as a daily was approved. Incorporators were Edgar G. Harris, A. B. Hobbs (as printer), T. R. Gordon and M. J. Epley. Capital stock amounted to \$30,000 divided into 600 shares of \$50 each. According to the 1915 Ayers, two entries appear for NEWS: One, established in 1907, appeared evenings except Sunday, subscription \$6, circulation 2,500. The other, established in 1909, appeared Friday, subscription \$1, no circulation figure given. Both were 15 1/2 by 19 3/4 inches, Democratic, with F. D. Lander, editor, and Hattiesburg News Company, Inc., publisher. This paper was the predecessor of the AMERICAN. Owner Lander was suspected of pro-German leanings and on 1 October 1917 he sold the paper to Howard S. Williams who renamed it HATTIESBURG AMERICAN for a more favorable image. Jackson Archives has 1 April 1915 through 31 August 1915, 6 November 1915 through 30 December 1915, 8 February 1916 through 19 August 1916. Hattiesburg Public Library and USM have identical microfilmed holdings: 1 April 1915 through 19 August 1916, with some gaps. HATTIESBURG AMERICAN morgue has bound issues from June 1907 to December 1916.

HATTIESBURG PROGRESS--W. H. Seitzler, publisher, moved from Hickory to Hattiesburg, commencing with Vol. 7, No. 47, 20 April 1897 (semi-weekly on Tuesday and Friday). Extant issue found courtesy of Mrs. Herman V. Bennett, 540 Mockingbird Lane, Jackson, is 20 April 1897. Corporation Records show Seitzler as publisher beginning to publish incorporations commencing with Vol. 9, No. 20, dated 10 March 1899 through Vol. 4, No. 193, dated 10 July 1903. Haynie's signature appears as publisher from Vol. 5, no number, dated 11 December 1903 through Vol. 5, No. 119, dated 19 April 1904. Renumbering began when the PROGRESS went daily. Rowell (1898) shows semi-weekly on Tuesday and Friday; democratic; 4 pages; 15 by 22; subscription \$1.50; established 1885 (in Hickory); B. C. Buckley, editor; W. H. Seitzler, publisher; circulation estimated at less than 1,000. Became daily, except Sunday, in 1900. Seitzler and Hurt were editors in 1902, then Seitzler alone from 31 October 1902 until 5 August 1903, when J. J. Haynie became editor and publisher. Corporation Records give HATTIESBURG DAILY PROGRESS with H. H. Weir, publisher, 1905; W. O. Hendon, business manager, 1905-08; William Moffett, Jr., publisher, 1904-06; and indicate that others, including D. Meeke (or Make or Meeks), James L. Norton, Miss Emery E. Smith and E. H. Thomasson, signed the legal documents without giving their titles during 1906-08. According to 1905 Ayers, two entries appear for PROGRESS: One was 8 pages, 15 by 22, appeared evenings except Sunday and subscription was \$6, no circulation figure given. The other was a Friday issue of 10 pages, 17 by 23,

subscription \$1, circulation 750. Both were Democratic, founded in 1890, with William Moffett, Jr., and A. C. Aylesworth, editors and publishers. Partial extant issue found courtesy of (Mrs. K. B.) Sue Hatten, Green Tree Apartments #303, 1801 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, is Vol. 12, No. 217, 24 June 1908. On 30 December 1908, the Mississippi attorney general approved the charter of incorporation of Progress Printing Co. Incorporators were A. C. Aylesworth, F. M. Moffett, Jr., and W. O. Hendon, with \$10,000 in capital stock divided into 200 shares at \$50. Jackson Archives, Hattiesburg Public Library and USM have identical holdings: 24 May 1902 (Vol. 3, No. 149) through 31 December 1903. Volume numbering seems radical. Seitzler brought the Progress to Hattiesburg with Vol. 7, No. 37 in 1897, but sometime before 1902 numbering seems to have reverted to Vol. 1, perhaps upon becoming a daily.

HATTIESBURG WEEKLY CITIZEN--see AMERICAN CITIZEN.

HATTIESBURG WEEKLY TIMES--T. S. Thigpen, publisher, at least from Thursday, 1 June 1905 which was Vol. 1, No. 15; through Thursday, 27 June 1907 which was Vol. 3, No. 27, according to Corporation Records. No known extant issues. Extant issue mentioned in Mississippi Newspapers (1942) no longer exists. According to McGhee dissertation, the TIMES was black, founded 1898, ran until 1922, 4-page, 15 by 22, Thursday, \$1 annual, with T. S. Thigpen of the Central Mississippi Publishing Co. as editor.

HERALD--According to 1905 Ayers, this 4-page, 17 by 24 inch paper was founded 1898 for "colored", appeared on Friday, was Baptist, \$1 annual subscription, circulation 425, C. A. Buchanan of Central Mississippi Publishing Company was editor. According to McGhee dissertation, size was 15 by 22, circulation 700, appeared on Saturday, Joseph Peltus and E. D. Howell, editors and publishers. No known extant issues.

HUB BREEZE--Extant issue found courtesy of Mrs. Mary Hirschenhofer, via Mrs. Herman V. Bennett, 540 Mockingbird Lane, Jackson, is 25 February 1932 (Vol. 3, No. 3) published every Thursday by the Martin Printing Co. Subscription \$1.50 a year in advance. Publisher was Samuel Blair Martin. This issue contains his second wife's obituary. Corporation Records show Martin as publisher in printing incorporations from 12 March 1931 to 30 June 1932.

(HUB CITY ADVERTISER--see TIMES ADVERTISER.)

(HUB CITY COMMUNITY NEWS--a weekly, established Friday, 7 October 1983, with Eddie Taylor as publisher and Joyce Jones as editor. A tabloid with 5,000 free

distribution, offices at 120 East Eighth Street, Hattiesburg. Plans are to begin to charge 25 cents per copy commencing with second anniversary issue in October 1985.)

(HUB-CITY SHOPPER-ADVERTISER--see TIMES ADVERTISER.)

NORTH LAMAR CHRONICLE--published on Thursday from 23 January 1982 to 1 February 1983. D. T. Lowery, publisher; Janice S. Lowery, editor; Sharon Ward, managing editor. Press run of 2,000. Office at Route 4, Box 115-A, Hattiesburg. Subscription \$6 a year inside Lamar County; \$8, outside. Masthead slogan: "Lamar County's Refreshing Source." Extant, nearly complete runs found courtesy of Alicia B. Harper, Box 603, Fayette, MS 39609, and of Janice S. Lowery, 2119 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg. Sold to Lee and Margaret Parker who changed name to SOUTHERN CHRONICLE (q.v.).

NOTICE DAY BOOK GAZETTE--Corporation Records show N. F. Johnson, publisher; weekly; Vol. 2, No. 32, appeared 20 February 1897; No. 33, 27 February; and No. 34, 6 March 1897. Rowell (1898) states DAY BOOK-GAZETTE appeared Saturdays; 4 pages; 18 by 24; \$1 annual subscription; established 1888; N. F. Johnson, editor and publisher; circulation estimated at less than 1,000. No known extant issues.

PERRY COUNTY ITEM--Corporation Records indicate J. A. Myer, publisher, of this weekly at least from Vol. 1, No. 6, dated Thursday, 14 January 1904, until Vol. 4, No. 22, dated Thursday, 11 April 1907, when name was changed to FORREST COUNTY ITEM, and continuing with Vol. 5 starting in 1908, at least until 7 February 1919. No known extant issues.

PERSONS--established as semi-monthly tabloid with Vol. 1, No. 1, dated 15-30 November 1977, 25 cents an issue. Became weekly with Vol. 1, No. 6, on Thursday, 6 February 1978. Editors and publishers were Alec and Gabi Clayton, husband and wife. Extant complete run courtesy of the Claytons, 207 South 16 Avenue, Hattiesburg. Last issue as weekly newspaper was Vol. 5, No. 4, dated 18 December 1981. Format changed and Vol. 1, No. 1 of PERSONS: THE MAGAZINE FOR HATTIESBURG AND SOUTH MISSISSIPPI, a monthly, was issued in January, 1982. In Winter 1983-84, it was transformed into MISSISSIPPI ARTS & LETTERS, an arts quarterly, issuing Vol. 1, No. 1.

(PETAL JOURNAL--a six-column broadsheet established in 1974 by Robert M. Hederman, III, and published on Thursday by the Hattiesburg American Publishing Company, 825 Main Street, Hattiesburg. Distributed as a weekly insert for Petal subscribers of

the HATTIESBURG AMERICAN, thrown free to non-subscribers in Petal and stack copies are available free in Petal grocery stores. Press run is 4-5,000 for a city population of 9-10,000. Editors chronologically since its establishment have been Susan Prouty, Joe K. Ledford, Sharon Wertz, Jim Sellers, Maybelle Gorringer, Cheryl Jackson and currently Lorrie J. Guinnelly. Petal newspaper office is located at 804 South Main Street.)

SATURDAY EVENING EYE--a weekly, 5 cents a copy or \$1.50 a year, twenty pages. Page 1 called "title page" carrying one society mug shot only. Gaines S. Dobbins was editor and sole proprietor in 19 November 1904 issue. Corporation Records show S. B. Martin, publisher, at least from Vol. 2, No. 7, dated 19 August 1905 until Vol. 2, No. 24, dated 16 December 1905. Jackson Archives has 19 November 1904 (Vol. 1, No. 21) and 7 January 1905 (Vol. 1, No. 27) through December 1905. According to 1905 Ayers, this 14-page, 11 by 17 Saturday paper was founded in 1904, Democratic, subscription \$1.50, Gaines S. Dobbins and Robert E. Martin, editors and publishers, no circulation figure is given.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI HERALD--Lee Motes, publisher, of Wednesday, 28 February 1912 issue (Vol. 1, No. 53); 6 March, No. 55; and 13 March, No. 57, according to Corporation Records. No known extant issues.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI WEEKLY--a short-lived black broadsheet, edited by Leroy Mims from September to about November, 1982. First issue sold for 50 cents, others for 25 cents a copy. Extant issues found courtesy of Doris Davis, c/o Hattiesburg Public Library (Vol. 1, No. 1, 9 September 1982) and Andrea Faye Robinson, c/o Hattiesburg American (Vol. 1, No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4)

SOUTHERN CHRONICLE--"Lamar County's 'Hometown' Newspaper, Serving the Lake Serene, Lumberton, Oak Grove, Purvis, Sumrall Circulation Area; South Mississippi's Refreshing Source;" a six-column broadsheet appearing on Thursday from 3 February 1983 through 2 February 1984, owned by Lee and Margaret Parker. Address was Route 4, Box 115-A, Hattiesburg. Subscriptions were \$10 a year in Forrest, Lamar, Marion and Pearl River Counties; \$12 elsewhere. Extant complete run courtesy of Margaret Parker, 123 Beechwood Drive, Hattiesburg.

(TIMES ADVERTISER--a tabloid weekly established Tuesday, 18 June 1974, through a consolidation of HUB CITY SHOPPER, established 17 September 1973; THE PETAL TIMES, established 2 April 1974; and HUB CITY ADVERTISER, established 10 January 1974. Published by Advertiser Publishing Co., Inc., 2415 West Fourth Street, Hattiesburg; Hal Fox, editor-publisher; William R. England, advertising manager; David Richmond, news

editor. Enlarged to broadsheet with 19 September 1974 issue. Distributed free by carrier or \$5 a year by mail subscription. Extant partial run of these papers courtesy of the late Hal Fox, 406 North 21 Avenue, Hattiesburg.)

TRIBUNE--a weekly, S. B. Martin, publisher, May-June 1914; Charles M. Hays, February-March 1915, according to Corporation Records. According to 1915 Ayers, this 13 1/4 by 19 3/4 inch paper appeared on Friday, was established in 1914, subscription \$1.50, publisher was Martin Publishing Company, no circulation figure is given. Part of the 26 June 1914 issue courtesy of Mrs. H. F. McWilliams, Jr., 217 Cambridge Drive, Hattiesburg, shows 3,500 circulation.

WEEKLY CITIZEN--see AMERICAN CITIZEN.

TOTAL: 42

APPENDIX B

MAJOR NEWSPAPER PEOPLE OF HATTIESBURG

(The following information is accurate, though incomplete. It was pieced together from newspaper mastheads and articles, courthouse and city hall records, standard biographical references and newspaper directories, telephone calls and correspondence with descendants, resulting in time gaps. Every similar surname in the Hattiesburg telephone directory was contacted as a potential lead.)

ALLEN, M. ANNA, Miss
Society editor, Daily Progress, 1904-05. Resided at 901 Main.

AULTMAN, KATHY
Associate editor, Persons, commencing Vol. 3, No. 11, 15-21 February 1980 through Vol. 3, No. 17, 21-27 March 1980.

AYERS, W. B.
Acting publisher, Hub Breeze, 12 March 1931.

AYLESWORTH, A. C.
Editor, 1904-05, Daily Progress. Incorporator with F. M. Moffett, Jr., and W. O. Hendon of Progress Printing Company in 1908, publishing Daily Progress. Shown in 1905 Ayers as editor and publisher of Progress with William Moffett, Jr. Resided at 501 Railroad.

BENNETT, R. L.
Resided at 114 1/2 East Front. Editor and publisher, Weekly Citizen, September 1927-January 1929.

BERNARD, B. S.
Former editor of the Evening Post and announced as editor of new city directory in 16 September 1903 Progress. Preceding directory nearly two years old in 1903, indicating Hattiesburg had a city directory in 1901.

BIRDSALL, FRANK R.
Incorporator, Hattiesburg Printing & Publishing Co., 1907, with H. A. Camp, A. J. Harris and B. McClannahan. Shown on 6 March 1908 Hattiesburg Daily News masthead as vice president. Editor-proprietor, Yazoo Sentinel, at least from December 1902 to August 1903. Welcomed Haynie

to Progress, wishing him "prosperity which his superior talents merit."

BIXLER, MORT L.

Publisher and manager, Hattiesburg Daily News, April-August 1909.

BOOTH, I. W. L.

(In some records, the first initial, "I.," was omitted.) Publisher, Hattiesburg Evening Post, at least from 27 June 1903 to 5 September 1903. Publisher, Hattiesburg Citizen, at least from 12 November 1902 to 22 May 1903.

BRITTON, W. S.

Publisher, Weekly Citizen, August and September 1927.

BROOKS, R. W.

Associate editor, Hattiesburg Weekly Citizen, 25 May 1906 (Vol. 14, No. 40).

BUCHANAN, C. A.

Shown in 1905 Ayers as editor of the "colored" Herald, established 1898, with Central Mississippi Publishing Company.

BURLINGAME, LAURENCE "Larry" (1947-)

Advertising director, Hattiesburg American, since 1984. AAS, Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, New York, 1968. Early career in classified and retail sales with the Daily Press and the Observer Dispatch, Gannett papers in Utica. Account executive, Gannett Newspaper Advertising Sales, New York and Atlanta, 1977-80. Regional manager, Gannett Newspaper Advertising Sales, Dallas, 1980-84. Winner, First GNAS "Salesperson of the Year" award, 1979. Memberships: International Newspaper and Marketing Executive; Mississippi Newspaper and Marketing Executive Program Committee; Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee Chairman; Hattiesburg Sales and Marketing Executives; YMCA Board of Directors, Marketing Committee Chairman, Planning and Strategy Committee; University of Southern Mississippi School of Home Economics Board of Directors; United Way Pacesetter Division; Mississippi Press Association Business Meeting Committee. Spouse: Marilyn; children: Timothy, 8; Traci, 6; Laura, 4.

CAMP, HERBERT ASBURY (1859-1921)

Incorporator, Hattiesburg Printing & Publishing Co., 1907, with F. R. Birdsall, A. J. Harris and B. McClannahan. Shown on 6 March 1908 Hattiesburg Daily News masthead as president. Born 10 June 1859, Mulberry, Georgia, and moved to Hattiesburg where he made a fortune in the lumber business. Buried with wife, Maxcy Field, at Oaklawn Cemetery.

CLARK, JAMES H. "Jimmy" (1947-)
 Circulation director, Hattiesburg American, effective 3 December 1984. Former circulation manager, Jackson Clarion-Ledger and Daily News, and USA TODAY since 1982. From January 1980 served as district sales manager, weekend supervisor, service manager and assistant circulation manager for the Jackson papers. Past president, Mississippi Circulation Managers Association. Member, Southern Circulation Managers Association, International Circulation Managers Association, American Press Institute, and Sales and Marketing Executives of Hattiesburg. Active in United Way, Governor's Corporate Voluntary Action Committee and Junior Achievement. Spouse: Joanne; children: Jami, 11; Jennifer, 8; Jill, 6.

CLAYTON, JOHN ALEXANDER "Alec" (1943-)
 CLAYTON, GABRIELLE NORA SCHOTT "Gabi" (1952-)
 Husband-and-wife team, editors-publishers of Persons, a news weekly. Alec born Tupelo, Mississippi, 17 February 1943; Gabi, New York, New York, 7 October 1952. Married New York, New York, 22 June 1974.

COLLINS, ROBERT JAMES (1851-1922)
 "Regularly authorized traveling agent...duly authorized to use the paper's name in any transaction...(paper) pledging to carry out any contract made by him," Daily and Weekly Progress, December 1903. Also sold subscriptions. Buried with wife, Annie Capers, at Oaklawn Cemetery.

CLINTON, JAMES ERNEST "Jim" (1941-)
 Born Monticello, Mississippi. Bachelor of Science, general business, Mississippi College, 1963; Master of Science, economics, University of Southern Mississippi, 1964. Founder and publisher, Advertiser, with no prior journalistic training or experience.

COSEY, GAYE (1951-)
 Born in Columbia, Mississippi. Advertising and sales representative, South Mississippi Weekly, September 1982. Community involvement coordinator, PACE (Pine Belt Association for Community Enhancement) Headstart Program, 1984-85.

DAVIS, DORIS (1947-)
 Born in Yazoo City, Mississippi. Reporter, South Mississippi Weekly, September, 1982. Clerk-typist, Hattiesburg Municipal Library, 1983-85.

DEVER, BEN STONE, SR. (1884-1947)
 Publisher, Weekly Citizen, at least during September 1921. Owner, Dever Printing Company, which also

published Daily Squibs, a free-distribution paper, the 10 May 1923 issue was Vol. 1, No. 187. Shown in 1918 city directory as proprietor of Dever Printing Co. and residing with wife, Norfleete Harper, at 102 East Sixth. Vice president, Typographical Union 647, Hattiesburg Local, 1919. Sold his printing business to T. B. Geiger Printing Co. Elected school trustee to fill unexpired term of R. J. Bishop ending 4 January 1921. Buried at Roseland Park Cemetery.

DINKINS, MACEY

Secretary-treasurer, Hattiesburg Daily News, June-December 1907, Vol. 1.

DOBBINS, GAINES STANLEY (1886-1978)

Son of C. W. Dobbins, owner of Dobbins Hotel, a boardinghouse, in Hattiesburg. Young Gaines peddled vegetables and met incoming trains to welcome travelers and invite them to Dobbins House. Office boy and printer's apprentice, Hattiesburg Progress, c.1898. Printer in charge of News office at McHenry, 1902. Haynie called him an "all-around man" and named him chief reporter, Progress, 17 August 1903, "as a tribute to his worth and as a token of esteem of his most exemplary moral and social traits." From 12 September 1903 to 30 December 1903 Dobbins appeared on masthead of Hattiesburg Daily Progress as city editor and also served as "theatrical critic." Went to work for Martin Printing Co. as editor and sole proprietor of the Saturday Evening Eye, 1904-05, with Martin as publisher. Shown in 1905 Ayers as editor and publisher of Eye with Robert E. Martin. Eye suspended publication when Dobbins left to attend Mississippi College, Clinton, earning a bachelor's degree and becoming converted. Earned a master of arts degree, Columbia University, New York, and doctor of theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. Professor, religious education and church administration, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, 1920-1956. Martin called Dobbins "a practical printer" because he could handle editorial and mechanical work. In 1905, at 19, he was the youngest editor in Mississippi. Buried with wife, Mae Riley, in Birmingham, Alabama.

EATON, R. E. L.

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901.

EPLEY, M. J.

Incorporator, Hattiesburg News, 1908, with T. R. Gordon, Edgar Garrard Harris and A. B. Hobbs.

ETHRIDGE, WILL N., JR.

Came from Meridian to work for Seitzler on the Progress as city editor about 12 January 1903. Married Mabelle

Blanks at First Baptist Church on 18 January 1903.

EVANS, H. S., Col.

Editor, Hattiesburg Progress, c.1902. Civil War veteran and boarder at Dobbins Hotel. Secured employment for Gaines Dobbins as office boy and printer's apprentice.

FAGAN, KENNETH J., The Rev.

Advertising and sales representative, South Mississippi Weekly, September 1982.

FARRELL, E. R.

From Columbia, Tennessee. Manager, Hattiesburg News, a daily, July 1909. Publisher, Hattiesburg Daily News, March 1910 to January 1914.

FAYE, W. C.

Editor, Busy Bee, 31 January to 21 February 1907, his known affiliation.

FEATHERSTUN, JULIET

Editor, "Society and Personals," Hattiesburg News, at least 1 April 1915-16 November 1915.

FOX, HAL, JR. (1916-1985)

Editor-publisher, Times Advertiser, 1974. Journalist, Starkville Daily News. Owner-manager, Fox Printing Co. Resided at 406 North 21 Avenue with wife, Marie Tallichet.

GORDON, T. R.

Incorporator, Hattiesburg News, 1908, with M. J. Epley, Edgar Garrard Harris and A. B. Hobbs.

GRAY, WILLIAM F.

Publisher, Hattiesburg Citizen, from 23 October to 6 November 1903, his known affiliation.

GRISHMAN, DAVID B.

Incorporator, Gannett Mississippi Corporation, 1982. Jackson attorney and partner of John H. Holloman, III, among others, with offices at 2000 Deposit Guaranty Plaza.

HALL, CHARLES

Editor and proprietor, Hattiesburg Gazette, 19 March 1896, Vol. 1, No. 19.

HALL, LEONIDAS ERSKINE, The Rev. (1847-1923)

Born in Alabama, moved to Hattiesburg from Shubuta, Mississippi, about 1891. Self-educated. Played and sold pianos and organs. Developed and sold cure for hog cholera. Corresponding editor and soliciting agent, Hattiesburg Gazette, 1896. Also wrote for a Gulfport

paper, Governor Bilbo's paper, Free Lance, and the Baptist Record. Authored several books including Perils of Our Nation. Was first resident pastor of the Baptist Church, now First Baptist. Moved to Scranton about 1902. Buried with wife, Lucy Webb, in Oaklawn Cemetery.

HALL, ROBERT SAMUEL (1879-1941)

Born in Williamsburg, Covington County. Graduate, Millsaps College, Jackson. Publisher of the American Citizen, a weekly, with Vol. 6, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, appearing in October 1897. Incorporator and publisher, Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901, with other principals: R. E. L. Eaton, B. C. Hemphill, H. V. Leverett, W. W. Massengale, A. K. McInnis, B. M. Moffett, E. G. O'Ferrall, A. S. Pelts, C. W. Rich and J. M. Stevens. Called ex-editor in November 1902 issue of Progress. Became practicing attorney, district attorney, circuit judge, congressman, federal judge. Buried with wife, Lenore Robinson, at Oaklawn Cemetery.

HARMON, CHARLES GREEN ANDREWS "Andy" (1901-1979)

Born at Lauderdale, Mississippi, and named after Dr. Charles Green Andrews, a leading Methodist clergyman of the Mississippi Annual Conference. Son of G. S. Harmon (q.v.). First newspaper job was on a weekly in 1916, setting type by hand. Publisher, Weekly Citizen, December 1925. Began working at American in 1926, first in commercial printing department, then news reporting under tutelage of C. M. Willoughby (q.v.). From him Andy learned the art of front-page journalism. Telegraph editor, Hattiesburg American, 1929 and resided at 2507 Hardy Street. Succeeded older brother, Francis, as editor in 1932, when Francis resigned to become international president of YMCA. In June 1960 with Francis and St. John, sold American to Hedermans. Favored extremely large headlines. With wife, Mary Claiborne Nixon, resided at 601 Adeline in 1935 and at 510 Walnut from 1936-54. Had two children: Charles Green Andrews Harmon, Jr., and Jane Claiborne Harmon. Divorced in 1955. Died in nursing home in Jackson, Missouri. Buried in Clinton, Mississippi.

HARMON, FRANCIS STUART (1895-1977)

Born in Paulding, Jasper County, Mississippi, and named after his grandmother. Son of G. S. Harmon (q.v.). Bachelor of Arts (Phi Beta Kappa), 1916, and Master of Arts, 1917, University of Virginia; Bachelor of Laws, Harvard University, 1922; honorary Doctor of Laws, Millsaps, 1936. Enlisted as private, 114th Field Artillery, 30th ("Old Hickory") Division, 1918; discharged second lieutenant, 1919; Argonne campaign, France, 19 months. Assistant attorney general of Mississippi, 1924-25. Democratic candidate for Congress, 1926, but lost nomination by 1,414 votes.

Editor and publisher, Hattiesburg American, 1926-34. Resided at 2507 Hardy with wife, Lucille Waverley Harwood, formerly of Lynchburg, Virginia, and children: Virginia Blackwell Harmon and Francis Stuart "Stu" Harmon, Jr. Left active editorship of American in 1929 and moved to New York City to become president, National Council of YMCA of USA, until 1931. General secretary, International YM Committee of U.S. and Canada, 1932-37. Vice president, National Council of Churches of Christ in U.S., 1958-60. Buried near New York City. At death was vice president, Inter-Church Center, New York City. Member, executive staff, Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, 1937-41, and vice president, 1945-51. Also vice president, Motion Picture Export Association, during same time. Served as executive vice chairman and industry coordinator, War Activities Committee, Motion Picture Industry, 1942-45. Author: A Good Inheritance, Adam's Eyes, Religious Freedom in America, A Study Guide and The Command is Forward.

HARMON, GUS SHAW (1865-1929)

Born Enterprise, Clarke County, Mississippi, and named after the local cobbler, his father's friend. Father of Andrews and Francis Harmon (q.v.). Lived in New Orleans most of his youth. General-store clerk on plantation at Mt. Helena. Editor, Jasper County Review, Paulding, and operated Paulding drugstore, c.1894. After WWI, edited then purchased The Free Press, Poplarville, and later the Greene County Herald and Lumberton Headblock, Lamar County. Admitted to Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1897, and served charges at Lauderdale, Morton, Pelahatchie, Collins, Canton, Meridian and Poplarville. Mississippi representative, Interchurch World Movement, 1920. Superintendent or commissioner, Methodist Hospital, 1921, when he held off a masked mob at pistol point to prevent seizure of wounded prisoner who was later lynched. Retired Methodist minister before editor and manager, Hattiesburg American, 1923-27. Indicted for forgery in 1926 and sentenced to ten years in state prison farm at Parchman. Died of pneumonia at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. Buried with wife, Jessie Bruce Banks, at Roseland Park Cemetery.

HARRIS & HARRIS

Public printers, 1894. Publishers, American Citizen, 27 July 1894.

HARRIS, A. J.

Incorporator, Hattiesburg Printing & Publishing Co., 1907, with F. R. Birdsall, H. A. Camp and B. McClannahan.

HARRIS, CHARLES

Editor and proprietor, Hattiesburg Gazette, on 19 March 1896, Vol. 1, No. 19, issue.

HARRIS, E. H.

Public printer, Hattiesburg, 1892. According to R. H. Henry (p. 179), E. H. and J. N. Harris edited the Mirror at Crystal Springs; and also launched the Citizen at Edwards.

HARRIS, EDGAR GARRARD (1876-1953)

Incorporator, Hattiesburg News, 1908, with M. J. Epley, T. R. Gordon and A. B. Hobbs.

HARRIS, H. J., The Rev.

Editor, Hattiesburg Courier, and town printer, 1889 and 1891. Public (town) printer, 1893, 1895, 1896. According to R. H. Henry (p. 179), the Rev. H. J. Harris "edited papers at Hazelhurst and at Crystal Springs, and in the eighties he owned and edited the American Citizen of Hattiesburg, the first paper printed there."

HASSELLE, J. E.

Appears as "duly authorized advertising manager and local and traveling representative of The Eye, and has full authority in the making of contracts and agreements over the signature of this paper," according to 21 January 1905 issue. According to 25 February 1905 issue (p.11,col.1) he bought the Standard Pressing Club from E. B. Love and managed this business of pressing and cleaning clothes while keeping his advertising position on the paper.

HAWTHORNE, GWENDOLYN

From Collins, Mississippi. Office manager, South Mississippi Weekly, September 1982.

HAYNIE, J. J., Captain, "Cyclone Jim"

Proprietor, editor and general manager, Daily Progress, from 4 August 1903 to 19 April 1904. Bought out Seitzler. Upon arrival in Hattiesburg, Haynie stayed at the Commercial Hotel, Room 16, and regularly ran ads in the Progress for one large room with two beds with a nice private family within four or five blocks of the courthouse for himself, his wife and two little girls, 4 and 8; who were easy to please; nothing but plain, everyday fare wanted; monthly advance cash payments made; in a family without other boarders; references given and required. According to R. H. Henry (p.250-3), Haynie was "the premier advertising solicitor of the state." Henry met him in 1878 and was impressed "by his remarkable personality, his great energy and wonderful resourcefulness" (p.251). He managed to secure many "foreign" advertisements, as all business away from the scene of publication was called, says Henry (p. 251). According to Saturday Evening Eye of 25 February 1905 (p.5,col.1), Haynie bought Waynesboro News-Beacon from J. W. Alexander, editor and proprietor, and moved there with

his family. From 1898 to 1900 Haynie was a solicitor for Nashville Daily American. During the yellow-fever epidemic which was sometime before 1903, Haynie also edited Meridian Daily News. From about 8 November 1902 to 14 February 1903 he sold advertising for a New Orleans industrial trade Journal. In early 1870s Haynie had a store in Claiborne, Mississippi. On 8 November 1902, Seitzler wrote, "Haynie is the greatest newspaper hustler in the South. It is thought he will go over to Jackson next week and get an advertisement from the Supreme Court." By November 1903, the Progress was three times its size under Seitzler and carried double the advertising matter of any other daily or weekly in the state.

HAYS, CHARLES M. (1879-1936)

Affiliated with the Tribune, February and March 1915. Buried in Roseland Park Cemetery.

HEDERMAN, ROBERT M., III (1942-)

Born in Jackson, Mississippi. General manager, Hattiesburg American, 1968-76. Publisher, 1981. With cousins Henry and Zach T. Hederman, sold Hattiesburg American to Gannett Group in 1982. According to Robert and contrary to newspaper reports, Tom was not involved in the sale. Resides at 5750 East Sedgwick Court, Jackson, Mississippi.

HEIDT, ARNOLD

Publisher, Hattiesburg Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 1, was published 18 January 1932.

HEMPHILL, Brickley C. (1855-1907)

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901. Buried in Oaklawn Cemetery.

HENDON, W. O.

Business manager, Hattiesburg Daily Progress, January 1905-October 1908. Charter member, Typographical Union 647, Hattiesburg Local, 1907. Incorporator, Progress Printing Co., 1908, with A. C. Aylesworth and F. M. Moffett, Jr. Died sometime before 1919.

HESELDEN, JOHN E. (1921-)

Gannett deputy chairman. Publisher, USA TODAY, 1983-84. Senior vice president and president, Newspaper Division, 1979-83. Senior vice president, marketing, 1978-79. Senior vice president, staff and services, 1975-78. Vice president, personnel, 1971-75. General manager, Gannett Rochester Newspapers, 1970-71. Publisher, Bridgewater (New Jersey) Courier-News, 1964-65. President, New York State Publishers Association, 1977. Member, initial board of directors, Gannett Mississippi Corporation, 1982.

HOBBS, A. B.

Printer, Hattiesburg (Daily) News, June to September 1908 (V.2); publisher and manager, February and March 1914. Charter member, Typographical Union 647, Hattiesburg Local, 1907. Incorporator of the Hattiesburg News, 1908, with M. J. Epley, T. R. Gordon and Edgar Garrard Harris. By 1919, state factory inspector for Mississippi with office in Jackson.

HOFFMAN, C. F.

Publisher, Weekly Citizen, January 1924; business manager October 1924 and April 1925.

HOLLOMAN, JOHN H., III

Incorporator, Gannett Mississippi Corporation, 1982. Jackson attorney and partner of David B. Grishman, among others, with offices at 2000 Deposit Guaranty Plaza.

HOWELL, EDWARD D. (1873-1907)

Editor and publisher with Joseph Peltus of black weekly, Herald, 1898, according to McGhee. Buried with wife, Louvenia Pickens, at Scott Street Cemetery, Hattiesburg.

HURT, WALTER NESBITT (1860-1926)

Born Kilmichael, Mississippi. Junior editor under Seltzler, Daily Progress, May-October 1902. Had come to Hattiesburg from Winona where he owned and ran the Winona Times for 9 years, 4 of which he was also postmaster. In 1903 was editor (or "rampitcher," according to Seltzler) of Greenwood Commonwealth. Patriarch of Hurt family of Waynesboro who today edits and publishes Wayne County News, a weekly. Associated with Williams on Hattiesburg American as telegraph editor, state and agricultural editor. Was managing editor when Harmon took over. Died at his desk. Accompanied Williams to his first Gipsy Smith, Jr., revival meeting. Buried with wife, Addie Elizabeth Harvey, at Roseland Park Cemetery.

HUGHES, JESS MARION, JR. (1921-)

Born in Hattiesburg. Retired Army colonel. Began working at Hattiesburg American as carrier in 1933. Advertising director, pre-Gannett. Promotion and marketing manager, post-Gannett.

JOHNSON, B. T.

In January 1903 bought Hattiesburg Citizen and moved his family to Hattiesburg from Starkville.

JOHNSON, C. C.

Publisher, Hattiesburg Citizen, 28 February 1902 was Vol. 10, No. 39; and 17 October 1902 was Vol. 11, No. 17; the earliest and latest known dates of his affiliation. Failing health caused suspension of publication in December 1902. Moved to Biloxi but returned in 1905 to

accept a position with the Daily Progress. Charter member and recording secretary, Typographical Union 647, Hattiesburg Local, 1907. By 1919, U. S. employment service, Meridian.

JOHNSON, JOHN M.

Editor, Hattiesburg Citizen, December 1902. Daily Progress reports on 22 December 1902 that after another brief suspension, Citizen revived as a weekly with this Johnson as editor, apparently replacing C. C. Johnson.

JOHNSON, N. F.

Publisher, Notice Day Book Gazette, at least from 20 February 1897 (Vol. 2, No. 32) to 6 March 1897 (Vol. 2, No. 34).

JONES, JOYCE (1952-)

Born Hattiesburg. Editor, Hub City Community News, a black weekly, commencing 7 October 1983.

KNIGHT, SHIRLEY

Circulation manager, South Mississippi Weekly, September 1982.

LANDER, FRANK D. (1855-)

Born Kentucky. At least during 1908 was general manager, Nashville Tennessean under E. W. Carmack's editorship. Occupation listed as newspaper editor in 1910 Hattiesburg census. Shown in 1915 Ayers as editor of News with Hattiesburg News Company, Inc., publisher. Editor, Hattiesburg Daily News, August 1913. Wife named Mamie.

LANDER, FRANK D., JR. (1892-)

Born Tennessee. Publisher, Hattiesburg Daily News, September 1914-August 1917. Elected member, Mississippi Press Association, 1915. Publisher of the Hattiesburg Herald, September 1917 (Corporation Record No. 1, p. 219), publication discontinued about 13 December 1917. When allegedly suspected of pro-German leanings, sold News to Howard S. Williams in October 1917.

LEPIEN, GREGORY (1952-)

Born Port Huron, Michigan. Controller, Hattiesburg American. General business degree, St. Clair Community College, Port Huron, 1979. Business administration graduate, Walsh College of Accountancy, Port Huron, 1984. Former credit manager and accounting manager, Port Huron Times Herald. Former manager, Clyde Township Little League baseball team, and former director, Port Huron Jaycees. Spouse: Catherine; children: Michelle, 11; Jason, 9; Renee, 6.

LEVERETT, H. V.

Principal in Incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901.

LOVELL, TED F.

Editor, Forrest County News, 3 December 1936 (Vol. 4, No. 41) at least until March 1938.

LOWERY, DOUGLAS T. (1941-)

LOWERY, JANICE (1956-)

Husband-and-wife team, editors and publishers of North Lamar Chronicle and The Chronicle. Douglas born Forrest County; Janice, Covington County. Married 5 October 1976. Also own Line Design Typographers, 2119 Oak Grove Road, printers of The Chronicle.

LOWREY, MARK LEONARD (1921-1982)

Born Bessemer, Alabama. Reporter and editor, Hattiesburg American, 1938-82, where he died of a heart attack at his desk on Christmas Eve. Navy veteran, World War II. Active in Cub and Boy Scouts, Forrest County Industrial Board, Forrest-Lamar United Way, Pat Harrison Waterway District, Red Cross and YMCA. Elder and Sunday School teacher, First Presbyterian Church. Buried with wife, Emelie Roberta Olson, at Roseland Park Cemetery.

MAC.JONES, MRS. ANDREW

Born Katie Lillian Irwin Allen in New Orleans. Society editor, Hattiesburg News, at least December 1915-August 1926.

MAGEE, ARTHUR R. (1954-)

Born in Collins. In 1979, was a USM Journalism student planning to publish weekly Galaxy newspaper for black community. Graduate, Blair High School, 1972. Air Force and Navy veteran.

MARTIN, ROBERT E.

Shown in 1905 Ayers as editor and publisher of Saturday Evening Eye with Gaines S. Dobbins.

MARTIN, SAMUEL BLAIR (1870-1950)

Born in Augusta, Ga. Graduate, Southwestern Baptist University, Jackson, Tenn. Came to Hattiesburg in the spring of 1902. Founded Martin Printing Co. in 1903. Publisher, Saturday Evening Eye, from Vol. 2, No. 7, dated 19 August 1905, to Vol. 2, No. 24, dated 16 December 1905, known dates of his affiliation. Charter member, Typographical Union 647, Hattiesburg Local, organized 27 April 1907 at his printing establishment. Publisher, Tribune, a weekly, May and June 1914. Martin Printing Company shown as publisher of Tribune in 1915 Ayers. Member, Mississippi Press Association, 1915, and Masonic Order. Owner, Martin Printing Co., publishing Hub Breeze, with issue dated 25 February 1932 (Vol. 3, No. 3) containing his second wife's (Virginia C. Dobbins) obituary. Resided at 1406 Main

Street at least from 1910-32. Remarried to Robbie Lowery who allegedly "cleaned his plow."

MASSENGALE, WILLIAM WEBB (1861-1904)

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901. Buried at Oaklawn Cemetery.

MCCALLISTER, DUANE KEITH (1944-)

Born Charleston, West Virginia. Bachelor of Science, Marshall University; Master of Commerce, University of Richmond. General manager, Suburban Newspaper Group, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 1976-80. Publisher/general manager, Courtland Communications, Orange and Sullivan Counties, New York, and Columbus, Ohio, 1974-76. Business manager, Richmond Mercury, Virginia, 1972-74. Retail sales staff, Richmond Newspapers, Inc., Virginia, 1969-72. General manager, Hattiesburg American, 1980. Became president and publisher, 1 June 1982. President, Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce. President, Hattiesburg Civic Light Opera, 1984-85. President, Project Hattiesburg Education and Literary Program (a local program to teach adult illiterates to read and write funded by the Gannett Foundation). Also active as an officer or on the board of directors of Forrest County Industrial Development Board, Mississippi Heart Association, Forrest County Unit of American Cancer Society, United Way of Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi Press Association, Hattiesburg Civic Arts Council, Salvation Army, William Carey College Development and Hattiesburg Rotary Club. Spouse: Joyce; children: Chris, 14; Marc, 10; Karen, 8.

MCCLANNAHAN, BUTLER (1846-1919)

Incorporator, Hattiesburg Printing & Publishing Co., 1907, with F. R. Birdsall, H. A. Camp and A. J. Harris. Buried with wife, Winnie, at Oaklawn Cemetery.

MCCORKINDALE, DOUGLAS HAMILTON (1939-)

Born New York City. Bachelor of Arts, Columbia College, 1961. Bachelor of Laws, cum laude, 1964. Gannett vice chairman and chief financial officer. Executive vice president and chief financial officer and president, Diversified Media Division, 1983-84. Senior vice president and chief financial officer and president, Diversified Media Division, 1979-83. Senior vice president, finance and law, 1977-79. Vice president, general counsel and secretary, 1972-77. General counsel and secretary, 1971-72. Trustee, Gannett Newspaper Foundation. Member, New York Bar Association. Member, initial board of directors, Gannett Mississippi Corporation, 1982.

MCCOY, FITZ (1924-)

Born Newton, Mississippi. Attended University of Missouri. Graduated University of Southern Mississippi,

1958. Sports editor, wire editor, assistant executive editor (under Lowrey), first Sunday editor, Hattiesburg American. Left in 1982 to go into public relations for Forrest General Hospital and a local bank.

MCDONALD, C. A.

Editor and publisher, Hattiesburg Independent, a weekly. Vol. 1, No. 17, is dated 23 August 1935. Mary McDonald shown as advertising manager.

MCGOWAN, JAMES L.

Publisher, Hattiesburg Citizen, March and April 1906. Vol. 14, No. 28, is dated 2 March 1906; Vol. 14, No. 29, is dated 9 March 1906.

MCGOWAN, W. L.

Owner and editor, Citizen, 1904.

McINNIS, A. K. (1873-1944)

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901. Buried in Oaklawn Cemetery.

McLEAN, J. T.

No title given, Hattiesburg News, a daily, January and February 1909 (Vol. 2). No title given, Hattiesburg News and Progress, March-April 1909.

MEEKE, D. (or MEEKS)

No title given, Hattiesburg Daily Progress, June 1907 to June 1908. Publisher, Hattiesburg News, a daily, June-July 1909.

MIMS, LEROY (1952-)

Born in Gulfport, Mississippi. Editor-Publisher, South Mississippi Weekly, a subsidiary of L. M. Publishing Co., short-lived black newspaper that existed September and October, 1982. Mims allegedly left town and disappeared with the advertising and subscription money.

MOFFETT, B. M.

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901. Carried advertisement in Robertson's Facts About Hattiesburg (1898) as dealer in fancy groceries, corner North Front and Mobile Streets.

MOFFETT, F. M., JR.

Incorporator, Progress Printing Co., 1908, with A. C. Aylesworth and W. O. Hendon.

MOFFETT, WILLIAM, JR.

From Chattanooga, Tennessee. Publisher-proprietor or manager, (Daily) Progress, September 1904 to February 1906. Shown in 1905 Ayers as editor and publisher of Progress with A. C. Aylesworth. Also a notary public. Roomed at 719 Main.

NOTES, LEE

Publisher, South Mississippi Herald. His known affiliation was for Vol. 1, No. 53, dated 28 February 1912; Vol. 1, No. 55, dated 6 March 1912, and Vol. 1, No. 57, dated 13 March 1912. No explanation available on odd sequencing of issue numbers.

MYER, JOSEPH A. (1858-1940)

Publisher, Perry County Item, a weekly, with Vol. 1, No. 6, dated 14 January 1904; Vol. 1, No. 7, dated 21 January 1904. Identified as owner and editor in December 1904 Saturday Evening Eye. First appeared 12 January 1903 with Myer as "cockswain of the craft," according to Biloxi Herald. This paper was renamed Forrest County Item in 1908 and continuing volume number sequence. Sometime after 27 May 1909 and before 24 December 1909 the day of publication was changed to Friday. Vol. 13, No. 19, was dated 14 April 1916. Last known issue was 7 February 1919. 1918 city directory listed him as manager of Hattiesburg Printing Co. and editor of Forrest County Item. Resided at 415 East Pine with second wife, Deborah Ferrell. Myer formerly owned and edited the Ellisville News. Buried in Roseland Park Cemetery.

NEUHARTH, ALLEN HAROLD (1924-)

Born Eureka, South Dakota. Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, University of South Dakota, 1950. Gannett chairman and chief executive officer. Chairman, president and chief executive officer, 1978-84. President and chief executive officer, 1973-78. President and chief operating officer, 1970-73. Executive vice president, 1966-70. General manager, Gannett Rochester Newspapers, 1963-66. News executive for Knight Newspapers in Miami and Detroit, 1954-63. Past president, New York State Publishers Association. President, American Newspaper Publishers Association, 1978-80. Past national director, Northeast Region, Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, 1965-68. Member, initial board of directors, Gannett Mississippi Corporation, 1982.

NOBLES, JAMES DOUGLAS "Doug" (1950-)

Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Attended University of Southern Mississippi, 1978-81; American Management Association; Dunn & Bradstreet School; Goss Urbanite Press School; Compugraphic One Systems. All of his experience has been at the Hattiesburg American, starting as expeditor, ad paste-up and page make-up, 1970-73; assistant composing room foreman, 1973-76; composing room foreman, 1976-78; plateroom and composing foreman, 1978-81; production manager, 1981-84; production director, since 1984. Spouse: Wendy Sue; children, Lance, 11; Joseph, 5.

O'FERRALL, E. G.

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901.

OLIPHANT, MARY

Editor and proprietor, Hattiesburg Democrat, 4 January 1894, Vol. 9, No. 1. Daily Progress of 8 April 1903 reported a J. R. Oliphant, editor of Poplarville Free Press.

OLSON, BURT, Colonel

Editor, Hattiesburg Citizen, sometime before 1 September 1902.

PALMER, W. F.

Editor and publisher, American Citizen, 15 February 1900 issue in Jackson Archives. On 3 November 1902 named as a foreman, Meridian Press.

PARKER, LEE

PARKER, MARGARET

Owners and publishers, Southern Chronicle. Lee is an attorney, Margaret, a second-grade teacher and real estate saleswoman.

PELTS, A. S.

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901.

PELTUS, JOSEPH

Editor and publisher with E. D. Howell of black weekly, Herald, 1898, according to McGhee.

QUINNELLY, LORRIE J. (1960-)

Born in La Mesa, California. Former staff writer on the "Living" section and current Religion Editor, Hattiesburg American. Also current editor, Petal Journal, since 30 April 1984.

REA, JOSEPH O.

As secretary, Hattiesburg News, December 1917, applied with Stevens to amend charter to change name to Hattiesburg American.

RICH, CHARLES W. (1863-1913)

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901. Buried in Oaklawn Cemetery.

RICHARDSON, J. D.

Editor and publisher, Hattiesburg Citizen, from 10 June to 23 December 1904. Shown in 1905 Ayers as editor and publisher, Citizen. Vol. 11, No. 43, is dated 10 June 1904; Vol. 11, No. 44, dated 17 June 1904. Vol. 13, No. 18, is dated 23 December 1904. Volume numbers seem erratic.

ROBERTS, FRANK

Editor, Persons, commencing Vol. 3, No. 11, 15-21
February 1980 through Vol. 3, No. 43, 19-25 September
1980.

ROBINSON, ANDREA FAYE (1960-)

Born in Jackson, Mississippi. Reporter, South
Mississippi Weekly, September 1982. Reporter,
Hattiesburg American, 1984-85.

RUFFIN, LORETTA

Advertising and sales representative, South Mississippi
Weekly, September 1982.

ST. JOHN, LARRY H. (1932-1968)

Born Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Son of Thomas St. John
(q.v.). Economics and business administration degree
from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Since
11, had worked after school and summers at Hattiesburg
American. Succeeded his late father as general manager
in 1963, having previously served first as office
manager, then as assistant general manager. Lieutenant,
U.S. Naval Reserve; director and program chairman,
Kiwanis; board of directors and treasurer, South Central
Mississippi Chapter, American Red Cross; director,
Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce; director, Forrest County
Industrial Board; member, Mississippi Press Association;
member, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association; board
of stewards, Main Street Methodist Church. Died of brain
tumor. Widow is Virginia White, formerly of Nashville.

ST. JOHN, THOMAS "Mister Saint" (1888-1963)

Born Brooksville, Mississippi. Father of Larry H. St.
John (q.v.). Attended Mississippi College, Clinton.
Associated with Hattiesburg News, a daily, at least
1911-15, beginning as circulation manager under Lander's
ownership. Name changed to Hattiesburg American under
Williams' ownership commencing in 1917, and St. John was
promoted to head of advertising department. Became part
owner in 1926 when Williams sold out to Harmons.
Business manager and secretary-treasurer until June 1960
when American was sold to Hedermans. Then continued as
general manager, actively engaged in management, until
October 1963. Associated with local newspapers for 53
years and part owner for 30 years. Board of stewards and
trustee, Main Street Methodist Church. Member, Rotary
Club. Business manager for Hattiesburg's professional
baseball team of the Cotton States League. From 1919,
with wife, Eunice Holleman, resided at 205 Fourth Avenue.
Buried in Highland Cemetery.

SCOTT, STARR C.

In charge of circulation, Daily Progress, 1905.

SEITZLER, WILLIAM HENRY (1849-)

Born in Louisiana. Publisher, Hattiesburg Progress, having moved it from Hickory, Mississippi, and publishing the first Hattiesburg issue on 20 April 1897 (Vol. 7, No. 47). Sold out to J. J. Haynie as of 5 August 1903, moved to the Coast and became editor of the Gulfport News. In reference to his early journalistic career, Seitzler, in the Progress, wrote on 17 January 1903 that he used to edit the baggage car on the Alabama and Vicksburg road, and on 19 March 1903, wrote that a long time ago he was in temporary charge of the editorial department of a paper published on the Mississippi River. According to R. H. Henry (p. 351), Seitzler "wrote bright and witty paragraphs and scattered sunshine with...fun....Originated somewhere out in the eastern part of the state. He had published a dozen or more papers, from the Scooba Herald to the Gulfport News, the name being somewhat misleading, for Seitzler would kill a live news item any time to print one of his witticisms, and like a number of Mississippi editors, he considered editorial leaders as a waste of time and space. He did not read them himself, and did not believe they were read by others." In an anecdote concerning a reception at Hickory "where he printed one of his first papers," his wife complained about not having enough chairs and Seitzler replied there was just too much company. "Seitzler started a number of papers, and had his own fun while printing them. He made no money, but he enjoyed life, and practised as fully as any man I have ever known the old adage, 'Never let business interfere with pleasure'" (p. 351). A. J. Brown (p. 200), in referring to Seitzler as Hickory Progress editor, said, "There is no doubt that he (Seitzler) gets up one of the best county papers in the state; that he has rare facilities for pleasing his readers, and should feel encouraged at the progress he has made in the management and editing of his paper." A Seitzler witticism from the Daily Progress of 15 December 1902, "The man who does not read a newspaper cannot be considered fit for a good citizen." By 1903 had sold Progress to J. J. Haynie and went to work as "bell-cord puller" for Gulfport News, "that place's leading newspaper," according to 14 January 1905 Saturday Evening Eye (p.8,col.1). 10 October 1902, appointed to two standing committees of the Hattiesburg Board of Trade: Information and Statistics with W. H. Hardy and R. A. Magruder, and Publication and Press with C. C. Johnson and J. A. Myer.

SMITH, H. R.

Managing editor, Hub Breeze, 23 July 1931;
editor-manager, 8 October 1931.

SMITH, J. FRANK (1852-1935)

Business manager and clerk, Weekly Citizen, January 1923; business manager, February 1923; business manager

and publisher, May 1923. Buried in Roseland Park Cemetery.

STEVENS, H. S.

As president, Hattiesburg News, December 1917, applied with Rea to amend charter to change name to Hattiesburg American.

STEVENS, J. M.

Principal in incorporation of Citizen Publishing Co., chartered 11 December 1901.

SUTHERLAND, ERNEST FRANKLIN, JR., "Frank"
(1945-)

Born Smyrna, Tennessee. Bachelor of Arts, philosophy, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Managing editor, Hattiesburg American, since 1982. From 1963-82, Nashville Tennessean as campus correspondent, reporter, youth page editor, city hall reporter, education news editor, political and state government reporter, regional editor, city editor. Journalism lecturer, Middle Tennessee State University, 1970-72, and University of Tennessee-Nashville, 1973-74. Awarded SDX Distinguished Service Award for Reporting, 1974; John Finney Award for Investigative Reporting, 1975; Nieman Fellow, Harvard University, 1977-78; API Seminar for City Editors, 1979. National president, Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, 1984-85; national president-elect, 1983-84; national secretary, 1982-83; national treasurer, 1981-82; national board member, 1974-present; Middle Tennessee chapter president, 1972. Member, American Society of Newspaper Editors, and APME. Board member, Sigma Delta Chi Foundation, 1981-present; president, 1983-84. National board, World Press Freedom Committee, 1984-85. Spouse: Natilee Murrey Duning; children: Kate, 7; Daniel, 4.

TAYLOR, EDDIE (1948-)

Born New Orleans, Louisiana. Publisher, Hub City Community News, a black weekly commencing 7 October 1983.

THIGPEN, T. S.

Publisher, Hattiesburg Weekly Times. Vol. 6, No. 15, is dated Thursday, 1 June 1905; and Vol. 8, No. 27, dated 27 June 1907, represent the earliest and latest issues found in Corporation Records. A black newspaper, Central Mississippi Publishing Co., 4 page, 15 by 22 inches, according to McGhee.

THOMAS, VIRGINIA MILLS (1923-)

Born Carthage, Mississippi. Executive secretary to publisher and personnel manager, Hattiesburg American.

THRASH, HAWKINS
Bill collector and solicitor, Daily Progress, 22 May 1903.

THRASH, RUTH
Editor, "Society and Personals," Hattiesburg News, at least 6-29 November 1915.

WANSTRATH, GEORGE R. (1942-)
Born St. Louis, Mo. Bachelor of Science, chemical engineering, Texas A&M, 1965; masters, marketing, University of Pennsylvania, 1968. General manager, Hattiesburg American, 1976-80. Left to work as general manager, Texarkana Gazette, Texarkana, Texas.

WEIR, H. H.
Publisher, Daily Progress (Publishing Co.), June and July 1905.

WILLIAMS, HOWARD SARVEN (1878-1960)
Born Columbia, Tennessee. Editor of the Hattiesburg American, after buying and renaming Hattiesburg Daily News, October 1917. Shown as editor and publisher of American in 1919 and 1920 Ayers. Attended Hattiesburg revival meetings of Gipsy Smith, Jr., in November and December 1922, and was converted. He sold the Hattiesburg American to G. S. Harmon in 1923; bought a tent, piano, some hymn books and became a layman evangelist. At 77, he was ordained to the ministry and ultimately retired from the Petal (Mississippi) Presbyterian Church. Buried with his wife, Emma Ray Smith, at Roseland Park Cemetery.

WILLIAMSON, J. M.
Publisher and editor, Hattiesburg Democrat, 1887-88.

WILLOUGHBY, CHARLES M. (1889-)
Born Jonesville, Virginia. One-time Hearst editor. Managing editor, Hattiesburg American, 1922. Resided at 707 Corinne Street.

TOTAL: 134.

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VITA

Patt Foster Roberson was born 3 December 1934 at Middletown, New York.

She attended public schools in the Panama Canal Zone, was graduated from Balboa High School and holds an Associate in Arts degree from the Canal Zone Junior College, from which she also earned a scholarship for further study in the United States. She worked her way through school and received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism degree from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. She received a Master of Arts in Media from Southern University, Baton Rouge, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in communication specializing in Journalism from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg.

Her work experience in the field of journalism includes: six years as an assistant professor of Journalism at Southern University, Baton Rouge; six years as business manager of The Southern Review, a literary quarterly; ten years as part-time advertising consultant for the Baton Rouge Little Theater; eighteen years as part-time reporter and photographer for the Canal Record and free-lance feature writer.

She is a member of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and the American Association of University Professors. She is a past president of the Southeast Louisiana chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi; Baton Rouge chapter of Women In Communications, Inc.; Louisiana State University Journalism Alumni Association; East Baton Rouge Parish chapter of the Louisiana State University Alumni Association; and Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center Auxiliary.

She is one of several volunteer coeditors of Tiger Bait Recipes, published by Louisiana State University in 1976, and has worked as a reviewer for Random House.

She is the widow of Murray Ralph Roberson, Jr., Plain Dealing, Louisiana.